

5 mortars fired at Heathrow airport

LONDON (R) — Five mortars were fired from the back of a vehicle towards London's Heathrow airport on Wednesday. Interior Minister Michael Howard told parliament. Mr. Howard, who interrupted a parliamentary debate on terrorism in Northern Ireland, said that initial reports indicated that there were no casualties or serious damage. Minutes earlier, British police carried out a "controlled explosion" at a hotel near the airport west of London. Petrol station worker Shabin Aziz, 25, said: "There was a big bang from the hotel car park followed by two smaller bangs. There are three cars on fire there now." Mr. Howard told parliament: "I have a sad announcement to make to the house (of commons). In the past hour it appears that five mortars have been fired from the back of a vehicle towards Heathrow airport."

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King to visit Qatar on March 20

AMMAN (R) — King Hussein will visit Qatar this month for the first time since the 1990-91 Gulf crisis damaged ties between the two countries, officials said on Wednesday.

The two-day visit, starting March 20, is King Hussein's first trip to Doha since the crisis, sparked by Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. It comes at the invitation of Qatar's ruler, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, they said.

The King might also go to Oman from Qatar, they added.

Jordanian-Qatari ties, damaged by Jordan's perceived pro-Baghdad sympathy during the Gulf crisis, have returned to their pre-crisis levels of warmth, officials and diplomats say.

But Amman has so far failed to mend fences with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Qatar and Oman are the only Gulf Arab states that did not break formal ties with Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait. Both countries favour pursuing an independent policy to counter Saudi influence in the region, diplomats say.

Clinton to meet Rabin Wednesday

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is to meet with President Clinton on March 16 to discuss efforts to restart the Middle East peace process that was sidetracked by last month's massacre in Hebron. "The president is looking forward to continuing our close consultations with Israel to help achieve the goal of a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East," White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said in a statement Wednesday. She said there were no plans for Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to visit Washington. After the Feb. 25 massacre, Mr. Clinton invited Israeli and Palestinian negotiators to Washington to keep the peace talks moving forward. But the talks have been on hold in the unrest that has followed the killings.

Spy case will not damage ties — Yeltsin

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin said on Wednesday that Russia's new entente with Washington would not be damaged by the Aldrich Ames spy scandal. "U.S.-Russian partnership... must exist, and under no circumstances should we lose this great achievement which we reached with such difficulty," Mr. Yeltsin told reporters after laying a wreath on the grave of space pioneer Yuri Gagarin. "And I am convinced that we will not lose it," he said, appearing to be playing down the case of the former head of the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) Soviet counter-intelligence section arrested last month together with his wife and charged with spying for Moscow. Washington retaliated by expelling a Russian diplomat it identified as Moscow's chief intelligence officer in the United States — the first expulsions since the end of the cold war. The Kremlin then expelled a U.S. official.

Envoys say Cyprus talks on course

NICOSIA (R) — Senior U.N. and U.S. officials said Wednesday that talks on building confidence between the rival Turkish and Greek communities of Cyprus were on course. U.N. representative Gustave Feissel, who conducts proximity talks between the leaders of the two sides, and U.S. State Department special coordinator Robert Lamb met Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş separately. "So far we have been moving along as it was envisaged," Mr. Feissel told reporters.

Israel, PLO remain deadlocked; Security Council may hold key

Rabin-Arafat phone call fails to lift logjam

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin made no progress in a telephone conversation on resuming peace talks after the Hebron massacre, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said Wednesday.

"Rabin did not respond on the core of the Hebron issue. He only made procedural suggestions," an Arafat aide told Reuters about the telephone discussion that was held on Tuesday.

The officials said Mr. Rabin's envoy Jacques Neria, who had been in Tunis on Wednesday, was cancelling his trip due to Palestinian opposition.

A respected Israeli daily reported that Israel will agree to some of the PLO demands set as conditions for resuming peace talks.

Mr. Rabin phoned Mr. Arafat Tuesday night as part of the efforts to get the peace talks back on track, political sources said. They would not elaborate.

But the daily Haaretz quoted high-ranking political sources as saying that Israel was ready to agree to some of the PLO demands, but did not specify what.

Israeli press reports said the government proposed to the PLO that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres meet with a similarly ranking Palestinian official to discuss ways to break the impasse.

However, the report said Israel would not backtrack from positions taken in the original Sept. 13 autonomy agreement or a further agreement on implementation details in February. That agreement specifically says no settlements will be dismantled, a PLO demand, before the first phase of Palestinian autonomy.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman Gad Ben-Ari declined to comment on the report.

In Tunis, PLO sources said Israel's views would be conveyed through other channels and any decision on the talks would now be delayed until next week.

"Arafat should not meet Rabin's envoy so as not to let the outside world believe there is some progress in secret talks," a senior PLO official, who asked to be named, told Reuters.

"The Israeli response can instead be faxed."

PLO sources said Mr. Arafat had been advised by several leaders not to meet Mr. Neria as a sign of protest following the massacre at the Hebron mosque two weeks ago.

Another source said he did not think there would be any PLO decision on resuming

talks until after Mr. Rabin visits Washington next week.

"Furthermore, any decision will have to be taken by the PLO Executive Committee and after consultations with our Arab partners (Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt)," he added.

The PLO officials said that despite U.S. reservations, PLO, Arab and non-aligned groups are seeking U.N. Security Council approval of a resolution condemning the massacre and calling for international protection for Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The Security Council was headed for a vote late on Wednesday on a resolution condemning the massacre.

PLO sources said that during his telephone call with Mr. Arafat, Mr. Rabin said resuming peace talks was the only way out of the present impasse.

They said Mr. Rabin had promised to accelerate the talks in order to achieve Israeli troop withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho area on schedule by April 13, as envisioned in the PLO-Israel peace deal signed in September in Washington.

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His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, other members of the Royal family, Prime



Minister Abdul Salam Majali and top-level officials, Tuesday performs the Umra pilgrimage (Petra photo)

King returns after performing Umra

Officials dismayed over King Fahd's failure to meet him

By Nazmees Marad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian official reaction differed over His Majesty King Hussein's return from Saudi Arabia at dawn Wednesday without holding an expected meeting with Saudi King Fahd to mend fences after three years of strained ties.

Reactions here varied from resigned pragmatism to anger and disappointment that an opportunity to reconcile Arab ranks after the Gulf war was not made use of.

The King, who was officially reported to be going to Mecca and Medina on the holiest day of Ramadan to perform Umra,

returned to Amman at 2:00 a.m. Wednesday morning.

Officials have been careful not to play up the visit's political value and stressed the King's wish to be at the Prophet's burial place in Medina on Lailel Al Qader — the night of destiny — which, according to Islam, is the night when the skies are opened to receive worshippers' prayers.

Privately, however, politicians and analysts had expressed hope that the visit would be an opportunity to break the deadlock in relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia which resulted from the 1990 Gulf crisis.

A well-placed source told the Jordan Times that King Hussein was aware that his trip to Mecca and Medina was to be a "purely spiritual visit."

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said no political significance or hopes should have been attached to this short trip except that a "psychological barrier" had been removed with the King's insistence on performing Umra was a duty he felt as a Muslim.

The source said, adding that "this was a religious trip and not a political one... there should be

no disappointment."

"A psychological barrier, if one is to think politically, has definitely been removed," the source said, explaining that while King Hussein had previously stayed away from the Islamic holy shrines because of the political situation between the two countries "he was able to break that barrier" with Tuesday's trip.

But the source conceded that had the two kings been able to meet and resolve some of their differences "it would have been perfect."

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Rabin visits Marjayoun

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin travelled to an occupied border strip in South Lebanon Wednesday to lend support to beleaguered militia allies two days after a deadly resistance attack.

Mr. Rabin met for four hours with General Antoine Lahd, commander of the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia at the SLA barracks in Marjayoun, the largest town in the area Israel occupies as a "security zone" against cross-border guerrilla attacks.

Also attending was the Israeli army's northern commander, Major-General Yitzhak Mordechai, as well as senior officers of the 2,500-strong SLA and the 1,200-member Israeli forces stationed in the area.

"We are here to express our solidarity with General Lahd and people of the area in view of what happened in recent days," Mr. Rabin, who also doubles as defence minister, told reporters after the closed meeting.

The morale-boosting trip came two days after guerrillas detonated three roadside bombs in the "security zone," killing seven SLA members, including senior officers. Six other SLA soldiers were wounded. Also kidnapped and killed Monday by guerrillas were two civilians, a man and a woman, believed to be pro-SLA.

On Tuesday, Israel retaliated for the bomb blasts by sending warplanes on a strike against bases of Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrillas.

Darawshe carries 'message of peace' from Assad to Israel

DAMASCUS (AP) — An Israeli Arab parliamentarian said Wednesday after a meeting with President Hafez Al Assad that he would convey a Syrian desire for peace to Israeli leaders.

Abdul Wahab Darawshe and the accompanying delegation of prominent Israeli Arab leaders met with Mr. Assad for three hours on their third day in Damascus, the first open visit by Israelis to Syria.

Mr. Darawshe said Mr. Assad differentiated between the previous hardline government of Yitzhak Shamir "which wanted to kill every opportunity for peace" and the current one headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that "gave the impression of working for peace," but added Mr. Rabin was not doing enough for peace.

"The president told us that although Rabin's government has created a good atmosphere for the negotiations, it has maintained the same practices of its predecessor," Mr. Darawshe said.

He stressed that Mr. Assad had not given the group any messages to convey to Israeli leaders, but said he would repeat what he heard from Mr. Assad regarding Syria's wish for a just and comprehensive peace during the meeting.

"We will carry a Syrian message of peace, a message we heard clearly" from Mr. Assad, Mr. Darawshe told a press conference. "We will relay all our impressions to Rabin, to the Knesset (parliament) and to the foreign minister."

"Our visit and our meeting with Assad is a contribution towards improving the climate in general," said Mr. Darawshe in response to a question on whether the group's trip would give an impetus to the peace process.

Mr. Darawshe, who also heads the Arab Democratic Party in Israel, said he will meet with Mr. Rabin next week.

Mr. Darawshe said the group also offered Mr. Assad their condolences on the death of his son, Bassel, in a car crash Jan. 21. A presidential statement said Mr. Assad had thanked the delegation for their sympathies.

The visit of the 58-member delegation, which includes two parliamentarians, academics, journalists and other leading Israeli Arabs, came at a sensitive time in the 28-month-old Middle East peace talks.

Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians suspended their participation in the talks in the wake of the Feb. 25 Hebron massacre.

Before the massacre, Mr. Assad held out the possibility of normal relations with Israel. Damascus is demanding the return of the entire Golan Heights, seized by Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, as a precondition for peace.

Mr. Assad's approval for Mr. Darawshe's visit implied that Syria did not want to put an end to the negotiations. He has shown flexibility by speaking to members of the Knesset, which Damascus does not directly recognise.

By gaining the sympathy and support of the Israeli Arabs,

who make up 18 per cent of the Israeli population, Mr. Assad will have inched closer to his desire to become the unchallenged leader of the Arabs.

During the delegation's meeting with the president, Salmaan Taweil, a reporter for Israeli Television, gave the president an oral message of condolences and warm regards from Israeli President Ezer Weizman, which Mr. Assad did not acknowledge.

Mr. Taweil said Mr. Weizman had given him the message before he left Israel. Mr. Darawshe stressed that Mr. Taweil was not speaking in the name of the group.

Mr. Darawshe said the group was leaving Thursday with a totally different and extremely positive impression of Syria than the one that is usually presented in the Israeli press.

Mr. Darawshe said that one of the positive impressions the group was carrying is that of the living conditions of the 850 to 900 Syrian Jews who remain in the country.

The delegation met with Youssef Jajati, Syria's deputy chief rabbi, and four prominent Jewish businessmen who told the delegation that contrary to what they said they had heard in Israel, Jews in Syria enjoy full rights.

Asked about a recent threat circulated in a pamphlet to Syrian Jews last week, Rabbi Jajati said:

"It's the work of a deranged person or a childish game. In every country there are troublemakers, but in Syria those are very few."

(Continued on page 5)

Americans leave Somalia under fire; factions bicker

MOGADISHU (R) — Egyptian troops serving with U.N. peacekeeping forces in Somalia covered their U.S. comrades Tuesday as the last major American combat unit waited to leave for home under fire.

U.S. soldiers assembling at the U.N.-controlled airfield scrambled for cover as shots fired by Somali whistled overhead and Egyptian guards peppered the streets with return fire.

Unconfirmed reports said the firefight erupted after several Somalis tried to loot a rival gang's vehicle. But U.N. officials blamed it on a disgruntled Somali who had lost a contract with the world body.

The gunfire rose and fell around the airport for over an hour but did not appear to hurt anybody.

Egyptian soldiers based near the city's derelict soap factory, scene of much fighting between U.N. troops and Somali militias last year, were also fired on.

U.N. officers said Pakistani soldiers killed a Somali when they fired shots to disperse a group of people trying to loot a truck belonging to the U.S. contractor Brown and Root which had just had an accident with another vehicle.

Pakistani, Egyptian and other Third World troops will form the bulk of U.N. peacekeeping forces left in Somalia when the United States and its western allies pull out by the end of this month.

On a day when Mogadishu seemed to be as lawless as it was when the Americans first

stormed ashore to save Somalia from famine in December 1992, the U.S. commander praised his troops.

"You leave Somalia having made a difference here," Major-General Thomas Montgomery told 400 soldiers from the "Triple Deuce" unit of the 10th mountain division.

At a farewell ceremony in an airport hangar scarred by old mortar blasts, Gen. Montgomery — who directed much of the fighting against warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed's followers last year — watched as the soldiers fired their regimental banners.

Gen. Montgomery said thanks to the soldiers' mission, "Somalis today have a window of opportunity to bring back some order to a destroyed country and hopefully prevent a return to famine."

The troops then moved to nearby Mogadishu port and boarded the Mediterranean Sky ship.

They were joined by 100 medical workers from the 46th combat support hospital, which dealt with dozens of American casualties in the Oct. 3 battle when 18 U.S. soldiers and some 345 Somalis were killed.

The battle led to President Bill Clinton's decision to order out all American troops.

Three years after guerrillas overthrew dictator Mohammed Siad Barre, Somalia still has no government and is in the thrall of warlord factions whose fighting first caused a famine which killed an estimated 300,000 people.

Far removed from the fight-

ing, a leader of one of 12 Somali factions meeting in Cairo said the group hoped to meet their rival Aideed on March 20 to discuss their proposals for setting up an interim government.

The group proposes a 17-member council, including Gen. Aideed, that would set up a provisional government.

But speaking from Nairobi where he has been based since December, Gen. Aideed dismissed the Cairo talks as "unworkable proposals for a puppet government." He called on Egypt to stop what he called its "meddling" in Somali affairs.

Gen. Aideed blasted the Cairo talks as part of an Egyptian plot to make unworkable proposals for a puppet government.

In a written statement, he said such "unwelcome actions" backed by Egypt were opposed by the Somali people and would encourage chaos in Somalia and throughout the Horn of Africa region.

The powerful, warlord accused Egypt of calling "divisive and irregular meetings of selected Somali personalities in order to promulgate unworkable proposals for a puppet government."

Gen. Aideed said it was unacceptable that the Egyptian government, which he accused of being a close ally of Mr. Siad Barre, should seek to send more troops to Somalia.

"These unwelcome actions are in clear violation of the reconciliation and peace process already in progress in Somalia," Gen. Aideed said.

Sudan talks scheduled next week

NAIROBI (AP) — Another round of talks to seek an end to a 10-year civil war in Sudan's south that threatens millions with death and starvation is scheduled in Kenya next week.

Presidents of Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Eritrea invited President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir of Sudan and leaders of the two main factions of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) to the talks March 17.

The invitation followed a one-day meeting Tuesday in Kenya's capital, Nairobi.

A similar meeting last month failed in the last minute after the Sudanese leader declined to attend reportedly due to Kenya's criticism of a major government offensive.

Sudan last month launched a major offensive aid workers said was aimed at cutting rebel supply routes from Uganda and Kenya. Aid agencies and Western nations, including the United States, have accused the government of bombing displaced people in makeshift camps.

The aerial bombardments have also forced several aid agencies to evacuate expatriate workers from various locations.

The United Nations estimates up to some 2.4 million people in the south need emergency food this year. In all, 5.2 million people in the region have been affected by the fighting and will need some form of assistance, the United Nations says.

Key issue stalls peace process — neutral observers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — During demonstrations Tuesday on the main Arab shopping street in East Jerusalem, U.N. officers ran back and forth trying to slow the barrage of stones and tear gas flying between Palestinians and Israeli police.

The border police slammed them around, ultimately arresting translator Mahmoud Rashid after he stepped between a policeman and the teenager he wanted to detain.

"We can't interfere with any military or police operations. The only thing we can do is discuss matters," said Gun-Britt Andersson, the Swedish woman who directs operations for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency on the West Bank.

Watching U.N. observers at the fierce clashes since an Israeli settler massacred 60 Palestinians in Hebron Feb. 25 underscores that they are caught between Israeli troops who basically resent them and Palestinians who expect them to stop any violence.

"Try to control your men," a U.N. man said during clashes Saturday in Jerusalem to an Israeli major on the scene. He responded: "I don't want to control my men."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is demanding an international peacekeeping force to be deployed between the Palestinians in the occupied territories and the settlers. But the record of the 21 U.N. refugee officers acting as observers raises questions whether any force could be effective.

Israel says the real answer is autonomy for Palestinians, who can then handle their own security.

The refugee officers, each teamed with a Palestinian translator, say some Israeli commanders appreciate their efforts to calm both sides in demonstrations.

But the settlers have been particularly hostile, smashing the windows on U.N. cars and threatening them, officers said.

"The settlers' violence is much, much more difficult to handle. We can't handle it basically because the settlers don't listen to anyone," said Ms. Andersson. "It would be too risky."

Until now the United Nations has barred its employees from speaking publicly about the operations. While it helped maintain public neutrality, it

also hobbled their effectiveness in stopping what they witnessed.

"It has been useful up to now, but it doesn't mean something else wouldn't have been more useful. We haven't been able to prevent the killings," said Ms. Andersson.

Since the Palestinian uprising against Israel's occupation started in December 1987, over 1,270 Palestinians have died in clashes with Israelis. In the same period over 800 Israelis have died.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat says the Palestinians will not return to the peace talks until there is an international force, preferably armed, to prevent a repeat of the Hebron massacre and the mounting toll since.

"The PLO is asking for an effective international presence which will be able to protect Palestinians," said Dr. Ahmad Tibi, an Israeli Arab close to Mr. Arafat on peace issues.

The European Union on Tuesday backed such a force, saying in a statement it supports "the establishment of an international presence in which the European Union declares its willingness to participate."

Israel opposes any such force, and Washington supports that stance by blocking attempts to push it through the United Nations Security Council. The Americans say the September autonomy agreement spoke only of observers, not an armed force, and only if both sides agreed.

Israelis are leery about the United Nations, feeling that it has a long history of bias against the Jewish state underscored by the 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism, later repealed. U.N. forces failed to prevent the 1967 Middle East war or infiltration from Lebanon.

A senior Israeli diplomat said the current reporting by refugee officers is too ad hoc although it falls outside the scope of the 1967 agreement on U.N. aid to the Palestinians.

"They don't need an additional force. What we need is to reach an agreement very quickly," said Yohanan Ben-David, director of Israel's foreign ministry. "Then they'll have something like 8,000 Palestinian police who will take care of the security of the Palestinians."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Americans advised to avoid travel

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department advised U.S. citizens again Tuesday to avoid travel to East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza due to violence in the area. This has been the department's advice since a Jewish settler's attack Feb. 25 attack on a mosque in the West Bank city of Hebron. Within Israel itself, Americans were advised not to use public transportation, stay away from bus stops, avoid crowds and demonstrations and "maintain a low profile" to reduce risk. However, limits imposed last Friday on travel by U.S. government employees in the territories were canceled. Since the mosque attack, Americans have been advised to be careful traveling anywhere in the Middle East but they have been told to avoid travel only in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza.

Kuwait donates \$2m for U.S. Islamic school

KUWAIT (R) — The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, has donated \$2 million to build an Islamic school for Muslims in New York, a newspaper said on Wednesday. Al Qabas said the school would be established at the Islamic Cultural Centre to teach the city's Muslims the Arabic language and Teachings of Islam.

Turkey announces security measures

ANKARA (AP) — The government will guard candidates and transport ballot boxes in armored cars under security measures announced Tuesday for elections March 27. Violence by separatist Kurds threatens the voting, which is for local offices nationwide. Interior Minister Nihat Metin said the country's eastern and southeastern regions, the focus of Kurdish violence, would be given priority. He said party buildings would be provided with security, roads would be combed for mines and balloting sites searched for explosives. The illegal Kurdish Labour Party, which has been waging a guerrilla war for autonomy since 1984, threatened to kill all candidates unless they withdrew. The pro-Kurdish Democracy Party, represented in parliament, is boycotting the elections. Six Kurdish deputies are in police custody after parliament lifted their legal immunity last week on separatism charges. The separatist Kurdish rebellion has left more than 11,000 people dead over the nine years.

Police arrest 45 Kurdish militants

ISTANBUL (AP) — Forty-five people were arrested and automatic weapons and chemicals used to make explosives were seized when police raided hideouts of separatist Kurdish militants. Acting on a tip, police conducted the raids over the past few days in different locations throughout Istanbul. The suspects which included five women — belonged to the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), police said. Police claimed they confessed to several attacks in the past six months: killing a post office employee, and a customer in a coffeehouse; opening fire on security forces; burning municipal vehicles and hurling fire bombs at passenger buses and a school in Istanbul.

Iraqi daily: Clinton lied over sanctions

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's influential newspaper Babel accused U.S. President Bill Clinton on Wednesday of lying in order to maintain trade sanctions on Iraq. In a front-page editorial Babel, which is published by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday, said Mr. Clinton had lied in a letter written to Congress giving reasons for keeping the embargo. "How can (Clinton) allow himself to lie before Congress and how can congress accept a letter containing the fallacy that Iraq has not abided by U.N. Security Council resolutions?" the paper asked. "Even a layman would not believe such lies," it said. The United Nations clamped sanctions on Iraq in 1990 in response to its invasion of Kuwait. The Security Council normally reviews the embargo every two months, with the next review due in mid-March. Central to any easing of sanctions is Iraqi compliance with post-Gulf war Security Council resolutions calling for the dismantling of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz is due in New York on Saturday for talks on the dismantling of mass destruction weapons. U.N. sources said on Tuesday. Babel said Mr. Clinton and all members of congress were aware that Iraq had met all its obligations to Security Council resolutions, and in return the council was obliged to lift the ban on Iraqi oil exports. "Those pretexts launched by the evil forces of the world (normally a reference to imperialism, capitalism and Zionism) to keep the sanctions intact will soon collapse in disgrace for all the world to see," the paper promised.

Lebanese businessman kidnapped in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN (R) — A Lebanese businessman has been abducted in Ivory Coast by Nigerian kidnappers demanding a ransom of 320 million CFA francs (\$500,000), a Lebanese community leader said on Wednesday. Salim Farhat said businessman Naef Kreicht, 38, disappeared on Sunday. The opposition daily La Voie reported on Wednesday it had received a telephone call from the kidnappers, saying they were from the Manatari brotherhood based in Kaduna, Nigeria. The paper quoted them as saying their movement had made contact with five Lebanese drug dealers to raise funds to build a temple. The Lebanese were supposed to sell drugs in Britain and Switzerland in return for one per cent of the profits but they never came up with the cash and the ransom for Mr. Kreicht was the sum the kidnappers reckoned they were owed. Police declined to comment on the affair. "I hope it's not a matter of a Lebanese-Nigerian drug connection. If we're dealing with bandits wanting money it'll be easier to handle," Mr. Farhat said. He would not say whether Ivory Coast's long-established Lebanese community, which he put at 30,000 people, would pay the ransom.

Algerian women defy warning to protest their lot

ALGIERS (AP) — Up to one thousand women, defying warnings from Islamic militants, protested Tuesday to denounce Muslim fundamentalism with flowers, portraits of slain women and cries of "neither veil nor robe."

Marking International Women's Day, the women chose the street over the hall reserved for their demonstration, a stone's throw from the government headquarters in the centre of this Mediterranean port city.

"Neither veil nor robe. Neither Iran nor Sudan. Algeria is Algerian. We want it modern," the women chanted, denouncing fundamentalists and government efforts to hold a dialogue with radicals.

Authorities said earlier this

week that 25 women had been slain over the past 15 months in the cycle of violence that started after the January 1992 cancellation of legislative elections to thwart a fundamentalist victory. An estimated 3,700 people have been killed.

Prime Minister Redha Malek, in a message to the women, vowed that "the horror will not be allowed."

"The escalating intimidations and the threats will be stopped and their authors punished," Mr. Malek said.

Islamic radicals marked women's day with posters reportedly plastered around town threatening death for women who fail to fully cover themselves. "For she who wears the veil, nothing will be

done... for she who wears nothing, the knife awaits."

Such posters have been seen in the past in the Algerian region, but are now reportedly appearing in numbers.

Hair dressers are among those who have received death threats from Islamic radicals. The guerrillas trying to topple the military-backed government mainly target journalists, intellectuals espousing a secular society, anyone with ties to the state as well as foreigners, 28 of whom have been killed.

Traffic was blocked as the demonstration spilled into the busy street where women carrying portraits of recent victims of the violence strung banners to cries of "No dialogue with killers."

The latest female victim, a 17-year-old high school girl, Katia Bengagna, was killed Feb. 28 as she walked with a girlfriend in the Algiers region. Witness accounts reported in the press said the friend was spared "because she wore a veil."

The Algerian Rally for Democratic Women issued an open letter to the head of state, General Liamine Zéroual, expressing fear at seeing "Algeria slide into chaos" and rejecting any contact between authorities and fundamentalists.

A group of women journalists, actresses and artists held an exhibition of women's works followed by a debate on the theme "What life for the women who give life?"

For Russian immigrants, fitting work is hard to find in Israel

By Allyn Fisher
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Olga Gutman, a physician for more than 10 years, is too embarrassed to tell friends back in Russia that the only work she can find in Israel is scrubbing floors.

"I have peers who say they would rather go hungry, but when you have no choice, that's what you do," said Dr. Gutman, a native of Chelyabinsk who is 39 and has two children.

Many of the 475,580 Russians who came to Israel since 1989 have trouble fitting in, most notably professionals who find themselves in a country of only 5.3 million already overflowing with doctors, lawyers and engineers.

Nineteen per cent of immigrants from the former Soviet Union are unemployed, about double the national average. Only one-third work in their

chosen fields. Israel still has not figured out what to do with all the 130,000 immigrants doctors, scientists, engineers and teachers, who have doubled the numbers in those professions.

Immigrant violinists play on the street, leaving their cases open as collection boxes.

Some other new arrivals are more fortunate. Immigrant musicians, athletes, actors and dancers grace the arts. A Russian represented Israel at the Miss Universe contest and Michael Shmerkin, a champion skater from Ukraine, competed for Israel at the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin noted in a speech that Israel had no work for the 3,500 immigrant Russian miners. "We do have many mine fields here," he said. "But not a single mine."

For many of the newcomers, finding a place in the new

society is as hard as finding work.

According to a study by the Jewish Agency, a quasi-official body that handles immigration, 77 per cent of immigrants since 1992 have had little or no social contact with native Israelis. Only eight per cent of those questioned said they felt a sense of belonging to Israeli society.

Native Israelis, envious of tax breaks and other benefits given immigrants, often are more hindrance than help. They make Russians the butt of jokes and blame them for everything from bad driving to increasing alcoholism and crime.

Instead of trying to adapt, many newcomers retreat into their own subculture. There are Russian bars, cafes, libraries and theatre groups. Several dozen Russian-language newspapers and magazines have sprung up.

Maria Sorkin, 45, who came

to Israel four years ago, takes her seven-year-old son Benjamin to a Russian-language theatre club every week.

"I prefer a Russian teacher," she said. They don't let the kids just have fun. They teach them something."

She rarely mingles with Israelis.

"We don't like falafel and they don't like ballet," she said. "That's the problem."

Falafel, fried balls of chickpea paste, are a national dish in Israel.

Word of the adjustment problems appears to be a factor in the decline of immigration from Russia, which fell to 65,700 last year from nearly 200,000 in 1990.

"Russian Jews are stuck between the hammer and the anvil," said Yuli Kashorovsky, who was jailed for Jewish activism in the Soviet Union and came to Israel in 1984.

Jews are anxious to leave the uncertainty of Russia, he said.

"But not enthusiastic about joining a custodial labour force in Israel."

An estimated 600,000 Russian Jews have exit visas, but many are waiting. Israeli officials predict half will come by 1996.

The 800,000 Israelis of Russian origin already here have become the largest immigrant group and a significant political force. Many accuse Mr. Rabin of neglecting them.

Some immigrant leaders have threatened to vote Mr. Rabin's Labour Party out of office in the next election, scheduled for 1996, unless he comes up with more jobs. In 1992, the Russian vote was an important part of Labour's victory over the right-wing Likud bloc.

As Mr. Kashorovsky put it: "The government has to understand that it isn't enough to talk a good game and then come to immigrants for votes."

...What we are looking for is results, jobs."

Natan Sharansky, the former Soviet political prisoner who leads the Russian-immigrant lobby, said in an open letter to Mr. Rabin that "not enough has been done to solve the problems faced by the new immigrants, especially those of employment and underemployment."

Yair Tsaban, the immigrant absorption minister, said in an interview that Israel is "probably the only country in the world that not only doesn't object to the immigrant flood, we invite the flood. We want as many as possible to arrive."

While he feels more could be done, Mr. Tsaban said, the Russians are getting more help than their predecessors. He noted that government-backed mortgages had enabled half the families to buy apartments, an unprecedented figure among immigrants.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Taratara
19:15 News in French
19:15 News in Arabic
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The End of a Brave Man
21:30 Fish and Blood
22:30 News in English
22:30 Faces and Places

PRAYER TIMES

04:32 Fajr
05:07 Sunrise (Sunnah) Dhah
11:46 Dhuhr
15:07 Asr
17:42 Maghreb
18:59 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Saffed, Tel. 810740
Church of God Church, Tel. 810740
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 810740
St. John's Church, Tel. 810740
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 810740

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 625543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771331

St. George's Church Tel. 771331

St. Isaac's Church Tel. 771331

St. John's Church Tel. 771331

St. Mark's Church Tel. 771331

St. Peter's Church Tel. 771331

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St. Timothy's Church Tel. 771331

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 12, Ashtab 40, Hamaidi readings: Amman 12, Ashtab 40, Hamaidi 20 per cent.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Rasib Zaitoun 888685
Dr. Jihad Zyadeh 881148
Dr. Bahjat Badr 894362
Dr. Farouq Nouf 778396
Ferdous pharmacy 661912
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Maimuth pharmacy 623672
Al Solan pharmacy 639730
Nashid pharmacy 644045
..... 637660
..... 247632

ZARQA:
Dr. Ahmad Al Tarifi (—)
Khaleh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue 199
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police No. 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843002
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 871467
Complaints 871467
Amman Municipality 771111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 610230
Central Amman Telephone 871467
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 61101
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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan chats with trainees at the Graphic Arts Printing School, inaugurated by the Prince Wednesday (Petra photo)

Crown Prince inaugurates school for graphic arts and printing

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday inaugurated the Graphic Arts Printing School in Amman and urged Jordanian students to turn to vocational training and trades as a means of livelihood.

Stressing the need to bring unemployment under control, Prince Hassan called for the restructuring and modernisation of vocational training services and certain trades so that they would be more attractive to students.

The Prince announced that during this year's summer holi-

day the Ministry of Education will organise scientific week, which he added should encourage the government to focus more on vocational training in the Kingdom.

Referring to the importance of the printing school, the first in the region, Prince Hassan said it is hoped that it will serve as a nucleus for a regional centre catering to the needs of the local and regional institutions.

The school, which was financed jointly by the Italian and Jordanian governments,

can accommodate 300 trainees in printing, book binding colour separating, offset typing, and other related skills.

The school, which cost \$7 million, will also print books for the Ministry of Education schools and will train employees of other printing presses, according to the Ministry of Education.

Prince Hassan voiced Jordan's appreciation to the Italian government for its contribution of \$5 million for the equipment and training services.

Toujan Faisal's tenure evaluated with mix of criticism and praise

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — On the occasion of the International Women's Day in Jordan women activists, journalists and members of the general public Tuesday night took the country's first elected woman deputy to task for not representing their views in suitable "tone and spirit" since being elected to the Lower House of Parliament last November.

In the first encounter of its kind, Deputy Toujan Faisal went to bat for herself against criticism from an audience of some 100 people at the Royal Cultural Centre. The session, though, was not devoid of praise for the outspoken deputy.

Asma Khader, the head of the Jordanian Federation of Women, praised Ms. Faisal for the "principled stands" that she had taken in the Parliament. Ms. Khader, however, urged the deputy to "listen to the advice and

wishes of the people that elected you."

Ms. Khader, who co-hosted the debate Tuesday night, was one of the four women who sat on the 60-person committee which drew up Jordan's National Charter.

The event, organised by different women's groups in Jordan was well-attended by men and women.

Referring to Ms. Faisal's dispute with fellow deputies Jamal Khreisha and Abdul Baqi Gammo, Ms. Khader said: "We support you in your effort to secure rights and respect for all members of our society, in your bid to achieve this just goal we are all behind you. We do, however, urge you to reconsider the manner in which you forward your ideas."

"You are no longer an individual but a people's representative and as such your victory is theirs and your failures are also theirs — thus you must consult with your constituency."

Members of the audience, including journalists, questioned Ms. Faisal over what they described as her "confrontational style" in parliament.

Ms. Faisal responded that her disputes with fellow deputies resulted from what she called the "lethargic attitude" of other deputies towards issues of people's rights. She contended that a confrontational style was called for in a Parliament that she said ignored cases that involve the abuse of power.

"I am being singled out by members of the parliament and the government because I am investigating public rights issues and cases of misuse of power," she said.

The debate, that took most of the evening covered issues like a deputy's role in parliament, minority rights, national unity, the role of women in public life, tribal powers, traditional power structures within the Jordanian society and the role that minorities play in society.



AL MAGHREB PRAYERS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday performed Al Maghreb prayers with military officers prior to an Ifar hosted by the Royal Air Force Command in honour of its officers. Addressing the audience, Prince Hassan commended the high level of per-

formance of the Royal Air Force, especially in fields of maintenance and training. The Crown Prince spoke of challenges facing the region, saying Jordan's geopolitical location is critical "and those of you who fly over Jordan from the north to the south in a matter of seconds realise that."

House passes specifications law

Provision calls for standard-setting institution

By Suhair Obeidat
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday passed the standards and specifications draft law of 1993 following two days of lengthy debate, introducing amendments to the draft law.

The draft legislation will now be referred to the Upper House (Senate) for ratification before it is enacted with the issuance of a Royal Decree.

The draft law calls for the establishment of a specifications and standards institution charged with devising a national system for specifications and standards for goods and services.

The institution will be governed by a board of directors headed by the minister of industry and trade and 14 other members representing various government departments, unions and other institutions.

The main aim of the institution, as underlined by deputies in their discussions of the draft law, is to prevent duality of the functions of various government bodies in applying the Jordanian standards and specifications. The institution will have financial and administrative independence.

The proposed institution is to be based in Amman, with the possibility of establishing branches in other parts of the Kingdom. It will be entrusted with monitoring the production processes and products of all factories and industries in Jordan, including jewellers, all types of business establishments and gas stations.

The draft law stipulates that

the institution will issue its own quality mark and any producer in the Kingdom will have the right to use this mark according to a regulation issued according to this law.

Locally manufactured and imported goods have to meet the standards and specifications specified by the institution, "except for some special cases and for specified reasons," the draft law said.

Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf, who attended the debate, explained that diplomatic missions in Amman who import products and goods for their own personal use will be treated as special cases.

The draft law sets a JD 500-5,000 fine or a one to three-month prison sentence or both punishments for violators.

The draft law grants the authority to close down the "factory, shop, warehouse or place" where materials and products violating the standards and specifications are found.

Materials and products that do not meet the regulations set out by the institution are to be impounded, destroyed, re-exported or re-produced.

The new institution replaces the Standards and Specifications Directorate.

During Wednesday's session, the House voted with an overwhelming majority to reject the contestation in the results of the Nov. 8 elections in the third district filed by Yacoub Zayadeh, head of the Jordanian Communist Party, who ran for elections in the same district.



Lower House of Parliament deputies Wednesday prepare for session (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

The House also listened to the government's response to a number of questions put forth by deputies.

Minister of Water and Irrigation, Hisham Khatib told Deputy Abdul Hafez Shakhaneh (Madaba) that the cost of building Al-Wala dam in Wadi Mujib is too high (JD 168.5 million) and undermine its economic feasibility, but the ministry still keeps this project under consideration.

Other issues discussed included Al-Margab Housing Complex, the number of kidney dialysis patients treated at private hospitals and the role of women in the judicial sys-

tem. The House had originally put on its agenda the draft law of the adjusted municipalities law and agricultural policies, but could not discuss them because of the extended time spent debating the standards and specifications draft law.

The House was scheduled to listen to the report of a special committee charged with reviewing the status of Royal Jordanian, the national carrier, but Deputy Aref Batayneh, the committee head, said that the committee needed more time to investigate the situation and "we need at least a few months before we can pre-

sent a comprehensive and complete report," he added.

The committee decided to continue its meetings after the end of the ordinary session on March 22, and Mr. Batayneh said he hoped that the committee would be ready to present its report during an expected extraordinary session.

Lower House Speaker Taher Masri said that a meeting will be held today, Thursday, to discuss the extraordinary session, which parliamentary sources said is expected to be held some time in June.

Of the issues high on agenda of the extraordinary session is the controversial sales tax law.

Highway to Irbid opens after 7 years work

AMMAN (J.T.) — After seven obstacle-filled years the Amman-Jerash-Irbid Highway Wednesday was formally opened to traffic. Minister of Public Works Abdul Razzaq Ensour said that the new multipurpose highway is 20 kilometres shorter than the old Amman-Irbid road.

Although the four-lane road is officially opened, said the minister, work continues along a 900-metre stretch in Juedieh district and along 1.1 kilometres in Masiabeh where only two lanes are open. The work in both areas will be

completed by the end of March, said Dr. Ensour.

When the Ministry of Public Works awarded the contract to local firms in 1987, it was announced that the road would be completed in two years.

But unforeseen difficulties, including landslides and financial constraints made it impossible to meet the initial deadline and subsequent deadlines.

According to Dr. Ensour, financial difficulties, the consequences of the Gulf war, cement and iron shortages, inclement weather which caused

landslides were mainly responsible for the long delay in completing the road work.

According to the minister, the total length of the road from the Abdali bus terminal, in Amman to the terminal just outside Irbid is 79 kilometres.

He added that the road bypasses the Greco-Roman city of Jerash avoiding the archaeological sites and residential districts.

Dead Sea highway to open

Public Works Ministry Secretary General George

Haddad Wednesday announced that the Amman-Naour-Dead Sea Highway will open to traffic Saturday.

Work on the 41-kilometre highway started in 1987 at a cost of JD25 million, according to Mr. Haddad.

Built in four stages, the highway was nearly half financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Mr. Haddad said the difficulties encountered along the 7.6 kilometres stretch between Naour and Adasieh contributed to the delay in finishing

the road. He said this area suffered repeated landslides, but retaining walls and culverts have been constructed to ensure safety.

The four-lane highway, according to Mr. Haddad, eliminated dangerous curves and should ease traffic especially during the winter when the Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley are frequented by vacationers. The road will also facilitate the transportation of produce from the Jordan Valley to the capital.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Basma pledges support to scouts movement

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday said she would do all she could to support and develop the Jordanian Scout Movement whose members offer voluntary services to the country. Princess Basma was speaking at a meeting at the Palace of Culture of Al Hussein Youth City with girl guides who took part in a national charity campaign during Ramadan to raise funds for the needy. The campaign is the embodiment of the scout movement's aims and objectives, said the Princess. She also voiced appreciation to the Ministry of Education for its continued attentiveness to the scout movement.

Malhas opens new health centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Wednesday opened Al Hashimiyyah Health Centre in Jabal Al Qusour in Amman. The centre will offer health services to residents of the district and surrounding areas, estimated at around 20,000. At the inauguration ceremony, Dr. Malhas said the ministry is planning to expand the centre to meet the needs of the area's residents. The ministry, Dr. Malhas said, is studying the prospect of opening pharmacies at its comprehensive health centres and offering medicine at cost prices.

Jordan, Oman discuss civil aviation ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Officials from the Jordanian and Omani civil aviation authorities have recently discussed means of enhancing relations between them. The Jordanian side to the talks, held in Muscat and headed by Civil Aviation Authority Director General Ahmad Jweiber, has agreed with the Omani team to operate regular flights between Amman and Muscat in cooperation with Gulf Air. Gulf Air already operates regular flights between the Jordanian and Omani capitals.

Authorities find 50 tonnes of contaminated meat

AMMAN (Petra) — A shipment of 50 tonnes of frozen meat stored at the Aqaba Free Zone will either be re-exported or destroyed, a Health Ministry statement said Wednesday. Health authorities in Aqaba determined that the meat was contaminated. In another development the Health Department in east Amman Wednesday said that it had destroyed 5,400 kilograms of mashed apples used for making jam and stored in 27 barrels. The apples were destroyed because their fitness date had expired.

Overpass branch to ease traffic at Interior ministry interchange

By Ella Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Greater Amman Municipality plans to add a new segment to the overpass at the Ministry of Interior traffic circle, according to Amman Mayor Mandooh Al Abbadi. The planned segment will start from the west to east direction of the overpass and taper off descending on to King Hussein Street in the direction of Abdali.

According to Dr. Abbadi, the branch-off is necessary because the existing interchange complex, constructed

by an Indian company in the late 1980s, did little to ease the congestion in that area especially the traffic flowing to and from Abdali.

A feasibility study has been completed and the municipality has invited bids, but the interested firms have proposed higher costs than expected to conduct the project, Dr. Abbadi told the Jordan Times.

Therefore, the mayor said, the municipality is revising its plans and estimates before accepting a reasonable bid for the bridge segment which will cost at least JD 1 million. The Amman Municipality

expects to announce the revised plans as well as the name of contractors who will be carrying out the scheme in a few weeks, said Dr. Abbadi. Referring to the pedestrian tunnel currently being dug near Jawa town between Amman and Madaba, Dr. Abbadi said at least two more weeks are needed to complete the 48-metre-long tunnel under the Amman-Madaba road.

He said the tunnel is being built mainly for the safety of school children who cross from one side of the town to the other on their way to and from school.

Israeli authorities' collaboration in massacre further shocks Arab states, world — report

AMMAN (Petra) — The massacre of Muslim worshippers at Ibrahim Mosque in the occupied Palestinian town of Hebron Feb. 25 has further shocked the Arab states and world community after facts have proved that the Israeli authorities collaborated with those who perpetrated the crime, a monthly report issued by the Palestinian Affairs Department Wednesday said.

The report said this massacre adds to the record of massacres committed "by the Zionists in occupied Palestine, and this massacre in which scores of Palestinians were killed and hundreds wounded is considered one of the most terrible Israeli massacres."

The perpetrators of the massacre chose Friday, the Islamic day of rest and worship, to kill as many Palestinians as they could while worshippers performed prayers at a place of great sanctity, said the report.

which monitors Israeli settlement activities and human rights violations in the occupied territories.

The collaboration of the Israeli authorities in the crime was explicit since Israeli soldiers guarding the holy mosque were not at their positions before and during the crime and did not carry out their duty in protecting the mosque and the worshippers, added the report. Many worshippers who escaped from the shooting in-

side the mosque were killed outside by the Israeli soldiers, said the report.

The report added that although the Israeli government condemned the crime, its soldiers were shooting Palestinian civilians near Alia Hospital while it was admitting injured worshippers and their relatives.

The Palestinians, the report asserted, cannot be secure as long as armed settlers remain living in the occupied territories, posing a danger to the defenceless Palestinians living under occupation.

It called on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities and take stands based on international charters

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ "Installation" inspired by Azraq by artist Andreja Kuluncic at Darat Al Fuman of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh (7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.). Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 54 contemporary Arab artists on Thursday (Tel. 643251/2).

★ Art exhibition by artists Widad Al Orfali and Abdul Hussein Twaji at the Orfali Art Gallery in Um Uthaina on Thursday (Tel. 826932).

★ Plastic art exhibition by several artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of Jordanian products at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of works of art by the Arab Centre for Vocational Training at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Art exhibition by artist Jalal Ariqat at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00

a.m.-5:00 p.m. except Fridays).

★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Fadel Mahmoud at the Alia Art Gallery (8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.).

★ Exhibition of medical herbs at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).

★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).

★ Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer Oussama at the French

Cultural Centre.

FILMS

★ Film entitled "Honkytonk Man" at the American Center on Thursday 2:30 p.m. (125 minutes).

CHARITY BAZAAR

★ Charity bazaar displaying stationery, artificial flowers, handicrafts, and clothes at the clinics compound of the Jordan University Hospital (10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.).

Jordan Times

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Faulty policy, possible plot

INITIAL HEARINGS by the Israeli commission established to look into the Ibrahimi mosque massacre confirm that at least gross negligence on the part of Israeli soldiers had enabled Baruch Goldstein to commit his heinous crime. This means that the Israeli army could have prevented the slaughter but did not due to a "lapse" in security arrangements for the mosque. "Five (soldiers) were missing," Major-General Danny Yatom testified before the five-member inquiry commission Tuesday. "In retrospect," the general went on to say, "my impression is the (theoretical) security plan provided a very good answer if it was executed and could have prevented the massacre."

This disclosure is shocking enough. But what is even more shocking is the hypothesis under which the Israeli occupying army was conducting its security plans. This could be found in Gen. Yatom's remarks to the commission that his forces were "geared towards thwarting attacks by Arabs against Israelis, not vice versa." This dangerous Israeli perspective about security in the occupied territories is exactly what invited disaster. Zealous Jewish settlers, well-known for their hatred and hostility towards Palestinians, have been allowed to carry guns and ammunition even when they enter places of worship and this beats all logic, especially when friction between the two communities, as often reported, could always reach fatal proportions. Dov Stelman, the army officer in charge of the security of the Al Ibrahimi Mosque, has confirmed to the commission that Israeli police had received no less than dozens of Palestinian complaints against Jews causing trouble for Palestinian worshippers. Yet, the Israeli commanders took no extra precautions and continued to harbour false pretences that the armed Jewish settlers are under threat and not the unarmed Palestinians.

Whether the absence of appropriate Israeli security arrangements is due to oversleeping by Israeli soldiers, as some Israeli army commanders would have us believe, or to oversleeping by the entire Israeli security apparatus, the fact remains that Israel is responsible for what happened and must be made accountable for it. When only one officer is found on duty, like on that fateful Friday, instead of the six or ten that were supposed to be there guarding the place, the question arises not only about routine negligence reaching preposterous proportions but also about the cause or causes behind this negligence. For one thing, it could be the result of a conspiracy by the army or some soldiers at least. This probability cannot be overlooked by members of the commission. For another thing, it is the policy that had been pursued by the commanders of the Israeli army of suspecting Arabs and not Jews that has to come under careful scrutiny and immediate review. That policy stands already to be condemned.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST IN Al Dustour demanded that the Ministry of Labour publish the list of measures it said it had taken to control the presence of guest workers in the country. It is not enough that the ministry declare that it was taking measures to help open the way for local workers to get employment and take the place of non-Jordanians, but the ministry ought to publish these measures and take practical steps towards their implementation said Mohammad Daoud. The writer said that employers have to learn about these measures and apply them as they have a national responsibility of employing Jordanian workers, said the writer. We often see non-Jordanians employed without work permits at construction sites, stores, gas stations and many other businesses and these are preferred by the employers as they do extra work for the same pay. Most of them live and sleep at their place of work, said the writer. Of course, this practice favours the interests of employers who need to give guest workers preference over the Jordanian job-seekers, he added. The writer called on the Ministry of Labour to set a minimum wage for workers so that Jordanian job-seekers can choose what suits them as a way of replacing the non-Jordanian workers. He said that by limiting the minimum wages, employers will be forced by law to give the Jordanian workers their wages in full without asking them to do extra work for nothing. The writer said that the Ministry of Labour should see to it that employers do not get away with their violations of the rule, and abide by regulations if it really wishes to serve the Jordanian economy and people.

What Israel should learn

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

MANY LESSONS are to be learned from the Hebron massacre, by the Palestinians, by the Arabs, by the Muslims, by the international community (especially those countries which are directly concerned about the peace process in the Middle East), by every human rights group and every caring human being in the world, and (most importantly) by Israel itself. In what follows, I wish to focus on some of the lessons that Israel must learn and act upon.

The Al Ibrahimi Mosque massacre is not the first chilling atrocity committed against helpless Palestinian civilians. Inevitably, it is part and parcel of the long series of acts of violence carried out willfully and systematically by all kinds of Israeli terrorist groups and by the Israeli army. But its timing is different. The despicable tragic act comes at a time when the Arabs and Israelis have finally started to do the right thing (i.e. sit down and negotiate matters face to face) and when the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel have signed what has been hailed by many as an "historic" agreement and a true "breakthrough." The murderer (or murderers as the case most probably is) knew exactly what he was doing: in addition to shedding the blood and wasting the lives of those innocent victims and initiating a new campaign of terror throughout the occupied territories, he must have aimed to disrupt and sabotage the peace process and thus prolong the cycle of violence and suffering of both the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. Baruch Goldstein's is a well-thought-out, well-executed strategic act with many purposes in mind.

Clearly, we blame Goldstein and his possible accomplices for the crime. But we also blame Israel (directly and indirectly) almost equally.

Certainly, not all Israelis are like the likes of Goldstein. We understand and highly appreciate the words and deeds of many Israelis and Jews who, since the beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict, but especially in the more recent years, have been not only sympathetic to the Palestinian cause but in many ways supportive. The Israelis who went out into the streets in the aftermath of the massacre to protest and condemn it reflect an important dimension of such sympathy and support. And we also appreciate, to a certain extent, Israel's official condemnation of the atrocity, though we expect it to do much more.

But we blame Israel for not doing its share, since the launching of the current peace process, in clearing up the air among its own citizens and those of the future Palestinian state and the neighbouring Arab countries and in facilitating peace. Until now, Israel thinks and behaves like a country which is still at war with its neighbouring Arab states and like a ruthless occupier. What has it done to show that it is a peace maker? Very little, too little indeed.

In fact, through its repressive and oppressive policies, through the unjustifiable practices of its army and through the extremely dangerous and provocative presence of the fully armed and utterly irresponsible settlers in the West Bank and Gaza, Israel has been contributing actively to the escalation of violence in the occupied territories. One wonders if Israel truly wants peace. All it has succeeded in doing, since Sept. 13, is to hassle Palestinian negotiators over petty little things, to procrastinate and to break promises and crucial deadlines. The Hebron massacre and the daily slaughter of Palestinian children and young people at the hands of the Israeli army come as a tragic reminder of Israel's failure to live up to the expectation and challenge of being a peacemaker. Peace is not rhetoric; it is attitude, temperament, psychology and daily acts and practices. Israel has been thinking defiance, arrogance and war for so long that one is sceptical of its ability to contribute to stability and peace in the region.

By contrast, the Arab side has done a lot since Madrid. The PLO, for example, has not only revoked its charter, renounced all acts of violence against Israel and opened its arms fully to Israel (it is indeed noteworthy that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat extended his hand first in what became a historic handshake at the glamorous White House peace

ceremony) but has also immensely restructured (even deconstructed) itself to be as flexible and accommodating in the peace process as possible.

Many in fact believe that the PLO has compromised so much that its whole being and existence is at stake and that it has changed itself so much (many speak of it as a "ghost" organisation) that it is presently at the brink of disintegration and disaster — all for the sake of peace. Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon have also gone out of their way to try to make peace with Israel. The only inflexible, intransigent and violent party in the Middle East at this point is Israel.

We also blame Israel, equally significantly, for its deep-rooted exclusivist Zionist ideology and for its extremely chauvinistic and exaggerated sense of its Jewishness.

Zionism, as an ideology and as practiced in the daily lives of many Israelis (intellectuals, politicians, businessmen, common people, etc.) is still flagrantly racist. Such racism is reflected not only inside the very body of Israel itself (in the relationship between the so-called Western and Eastern Jews, the white and black Israelis, etc.) but also, more importantly and tragically, in the relationship between Israel and its Arab inhabitants, those who have the Israeli citizenship and those who live under occupation. Their rights and lives are continually violated and trampled upon. The reason is obvious: Zionism, being the racist ideology it is, views the Israeli and

"The fact that the United Nations has cancelled its previous decision to condemn Zionism as a racist ideology is meant to stress not that Israel is non-racist, but to encourage it not to be racist. As far as we can tell, Israel has hardly done anything to improve its racist image."

the Jew as remarkably superior to the Palestinian and the Arab. Such ideology is unfortunate not just because it is degrading and erroneous but also, and this is what concerns us here, because it directly contributes to instability and violence — for once you view the "other" as inferior, as Israel does, then you give yourself the privilege of committing all kinds of injustices against this "other."

The fact that the United Nations has cancelled its previous decision to condemn Zionism as a racist ideology is meant to stress not that Israel is in fact nonracist, but to encourage it not to be racist. As far as we can tell, Israel has hardly done anything to improve its racist image.

As for Israel's Jewishness, we Arabs (Muslims and Christians alike) have no trouble with it. We recognise Judaism as a heavenly religion, and we recognise the rights of the Jews to worship peacefully and freely. We believe in Abraham, Jacob, Isaac, Ismael, Joseph, Moses, David and Solomon. Simultaneously, however, we believe in our right (Muslims and Christians) to pray and worship peacefully and freely. Unfortunately, many orthodox and non-orthodox Jews (with the encouragement of the Israeli Government) seem to have no respect whatsoever to such right. They seem to think that all of the holy lands belong to them. This is not only selfish but also, as the Goldstein terrorist act has shown, extremely dangerous and unacceptable. What has Israel done, what is it planning to do, by way of insuring respect and protection for Muslim and Christian worshippers?

Israel has a lot to learn and a lot to do to demonstrate to us, to the world, and to itself and to convince us, the world and itself that it truly wants peace.

The writer is professor of American Literature at Yarmouk University.

Oslo accord calls for early discussion of settlements

By Michael Jansen

The Arabs, and in particular the PLO, are about to lose by default their campaign for early discussion of the illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and the threat these settlements pose to the security of the indigenous Palestinian population. This is because the Arabs and the PLO have not read and the Oslo agreement which stipulates in the article entitled "Transitional period and permanent status negotiations" (paragraph 2): "Permanent status negotiations will commence as soon as possible, but not later than the beginning of the third year of the interim period..." (paragraph 3). It is understood that these negotiations shall cover...Jerusalem, refugees, settlements...

Although these paragraphs occur in Article V which deals with the transitional period, there is nothing in that article which relegates discussion of any of the permanent status items until after the transitional period begins. If that had been the intention of the two sides this would have been explicit in the text. Therefore, the Arabs and the PLO can demand immediate and urgent negotiations on settlements and the other items listed as "permanent status" issues without changing one comma in the Oslo accord. Indeed, the PLO and the Arabs can rely on the accord to make such a demand.

Israel has misinterpreted this very explicit paragraph as meaning that negotiations on permanent status will not begin before "the beginning of the third year of the interim period." And have used this misinterpretation to justify their refusal to discuss settlements at this critical juncture.

And instead of referring to which would be in implementation of the terms of the Oslo accord.

The Israeli misinterpretation has fooled not only the Arabs, the PLO and the international community but also the extremist settlers in the occupied territories. They continue to act as arrogantly and violently towards the Palestinian inhabitants of the territories as before the signing of the accord in the belief that the Israeli government will not act against them or decide their fate before two to five years after the beginning of the transitional period of self-rule for the Palestinians. And they could be right if the world, the Arabs and the PLO continue to ignore the terms of the Oslo accord and allow Israel's misinterpretation to stand.

Mexican rebels wary of government efforts

By Eduardo Kragelund
Reuters

SAN MIGUEL, Mexico — Maya Indian rebels who took up arms in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas appear leery of the promises made by government envoys last week during peace talks aimed at quelling the uprising.

Reporters who were this week scheduled to accompany rebel leaders into Maya communities to watch the Indians debate the proposals were told the trip would be delayed as Zapatista guerrillas were still debating the promises among themselves.

The committees (which direct the Zapatista movement) have convened and are still analysing the federal government's response to the Zapatistas' demands. The Zapatista National Liberation Army told the reporters in a communiqué.

The guerrillas have outlined a broad list of demands, ranging from free and fair national elections to more hospitals and better services for Indian communities and more respect for Mexico's indigenous people.

"They always make promises that they don't fulfil," said one of the guerrillas in San Miguel, a town on the edge of the rebel-held Lacandon jungle.

"We don't want to be cheated again. That's why we've taken up arms and why we're not turning them in," the guerrilla told Reuters.

The Mexican government says 145 people were killed in early January after some 2,000 Zapatistas descended from their highland strongholds and seized around a dozen chiapas towns.

The rebels would not tell reporters which elements in the government's response were causing difficulties.

But the rebels had previously hinted it would not be easy to resolve the conflict, contradicting some of the optimistic predictions made by government officials and catholic clerics mediating the conflict.

Before leaving San Cristobal de Las Casas, the site of the first round of peace talks, — the rebel spokesman known only as Marcos told reporters: "The government's response is just a pile of papers, and these papers can't heal you. They can't nourish you or teach you or give you democracy."

Political analysts say some of the rebels' demands would require a near-total upheaval of the political system in Mexico, ruled by one party since 1929, and in Chiapas, a state with a long tradition of repressing and exploiting its approximately 1 million Indians descended from the great pre-Columbian Maya civilisation.

Peace envoy Manuel Camacho Solis and church mediators say the language difficulty has complicated efforts to find a solution to the conflict.

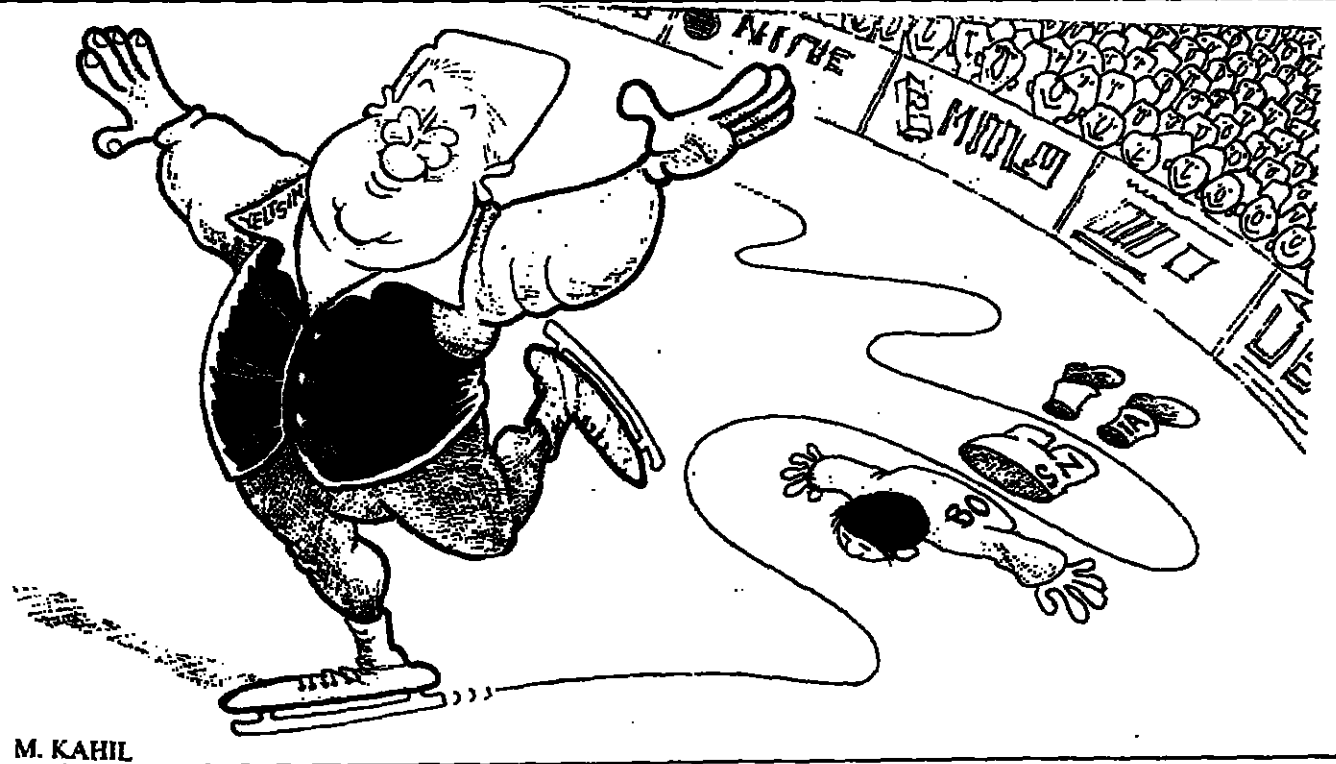
Although the government's response to guerrilla demands was translated from the Spanish into the Mayan dialects of Tzeltal, Tzotzil, Tojolabal and Chol, the translations are inexact.

Many of the Indian languages have no word for abstract concepts. A priest who worked for 12 years in the Lacandon jungle explained that the nearest translation to the word "justice" would be "a judicial hearing" in the Maya languages.

No date has been set for the second round of peace talks.

Unlike the government, which is eager to have the conflict resolved before the August 20 presidential election, the rebels are in no hurry.

"We're not rushed. We need to study all of this very carefully, and out of respect for our dead, we cannot allow ourselves to fall into a trap," the guerrilla in San Miguel told Reuters.



By Anthony Lewis

LONDON — "The road to any solution in Bosnia now runs through Moscow." A senior diplomat in London thus summed up the dramatically changed landscape faced by Western governments trying to design an end to the Bosnian conflict.

When Russia intervened recently offering a hand to the Serbs, it became an essential player in the diplomatic game, with Boris Yeltsin personally involved. That sharply limits what the United States and the Europeans can do on their own. But it also offers an urgent opportunity for Russian-American action.

An example of the new restraints on the West is the outlook for further NATO air strike threats, like the one that helped move Serbian guns back from Sarajevo. Their purpose might be to end the Serbian shelling of other Bosnian government enclaves, to reopen the Tuzla airport or to stop military traffic from Serbia and Croatia.

But now that Russia is involved, can such NATO air

The Russian dimension in the Bosnian conflict

action be a serious possibility? NATO members are highly unlikely to want to risk an even more dangerous conflict. And threats that will not be carried out are worse than useless.

The irony is that, in the events of the last two weeks, the Serbs have ended up winners. The Bosnian government hoped that it was finally getting a protective arm from NATO, but the symbolic protection that Russia has extended to the Serbs is more meaningful.

The changed situation most significantly affects the sine qua non of any overall peace settlement achieved by territorial division of Bosnia: getting the Serbs to withdraw from enough of the territory they have seized — 70 per cent of the country — to make possible a viable if rump Bosnia.

The United States has mediated a political plan for a Bosnian-Croatian confederation. If the Bosnian-Croatian

overthrow him. Yet that Russia is in a position to help shape, or block, any resolution of the Bosnian conflict.

If there is to be a peace that has a chance of holding, Washington and Moscow have to agree broadly on the terms. Then the United States would have to sell them to the Bosnian government, Russia to the Serbs.

Such a joint demarche is the new opportunity, and it is a serious one. In the past, Russian diplomats have been cooperative and well informed on the Bosnian situation. President Yeltsin's call for a Moscow conference on Bosnia, which has drawn a lukewarm Western response, might in fact have possibilities.

The risk is that domestic political pressure on Mr. Yeltsin — from the rise of Slav nationalism — may now make him lean too far towards the Serbs. But President Bill Clinton would have some leverage to produce a modestly decent result for the Bosnian victims.

Sanctions on Serbia are a powerful lever.

It is a strange situation. Here is a Russian state in desperate economic and political trouble, its president unable to prevent a grant of amnesty to men who tried to

The New York Times



RCC undergoes a revolutionary change

By Mohammad Mashargah

Until recently, the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) has catered to the needs of the elite of the foreign community in Jordan who enjoyed its cultural and artistic activities along with a few Jordanians whose attendance was merely meant to re-assert their fine social status.

Following the birth of democracy and its openness which started in 1989, a revolutionary change took place in the RCC, affecting social life in Jordan.

The centre developed into a cultural production unit after having served for years as an arena for displaying shades of culture. It is crystallising pioneering ideas and rearing them until they flourish and spread across the country.

Take for instance the National Ballet Troupe, set up by the RCC, which faced strong criticism from conservatives. The RCC also embraced the Amman Orchestra Players Group, the Oriental Culture Group and the Energetic Young Theatre Group.

Indeed, the RCC's management is democratically-oriented, supporting the ideas of pluralism, says Iyad Qattan, the centre's liberal-minded and highly-cultured director. In his view democracy in culture implies opening the door to all talented and creative-minded citizens to project their potentials and skills at the RCC where the audience can be the judge of their work.

Certain intellectuals, who believe art is for the elite, only level criticism at the RCC management for opening its doors before all Jordanian artists without discrimination of interference, says Qattan. "We do not assume the role of critics or judges appreciating what is being presented, nor do we leave the arena for the benefit of a tiny group of artists or intellectuals to control the process of assessing the performances and impose their own views and tastes on others."

Reflecting the RCC's democracy and cultural strategy, Qattan says: "Tens of plastic artists, theatre-lovers and playwrights, as well as numerous charity organisations and even housewives have benefitted by the RCC's almost free

services.

"It is to be noted that some artists and literary men who are well-known today had made their debut at the RCC," adds Qattan.

Among those famous people were the so-called "Ajas" (Bells) poetry group who introduced fine and well-known poets (like Ali Al Amiri and Basel Rafa'i) to the Jordanian community, said Qattan.

Qattan thinks the RCC is capable of adopting various other creative works — a potential which other public and private forums lack.

But he says the RCC's significance far exceeds the role of paving the way for cultural or artistic initiatives because it also serves as an arena for intellectuals to hold dialogues on various subjects and ideologies, including those that have been banned in Jordan.

He says the RCC has also a responsibility to enhance democratic behaviour and political pluralism in the country, as well as promote respect for other views, co-existence of ideologies and other related missions because this is part of the cultural task entrusted to it.

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

During the current holy month of Ramadan, the RCC initiated an activity called "Okaz Cultural Forum" during which it hosted such activities as poetry reading, plays, paintings and lectures.

Mohammad Awad, supervisor of the RCC's cultural affairs, says that the Okaz idea was derived from the ancient Arab heritage. In the old days people used to gather in the markets not only for trade but also for open sessions of literary criticism.

"At the RCC, we have tried to propagate and spread an atmosphere of joy for the people of Amman, a city reeling under the heavy weight of concerns and daily worries and pressures, and have created an open forum for the Jordanian artists to achieve that goal," notes Awad.

The Forum hosted two plays, two festivals one for poetry

and another for oriental music, and a book exhibition.

"We had wished to see the forum develop into some sort of a Ramadan open festival for all kinds of art and creative work as well as intellectual debates, but financial and administrative constraints rendered this idea inapplicable," he adds.

Despite its independent decisions in matters related to culture and art, the RCC is formally affiliated to and abides by the rules and regulations set by the Ministry of Culture and therefore the RCC must adhere to the administrative and financial regulations and the ministry's budget earmarked for cultural activities.

This amounts to less than JD1 million annually, spent mostly on building facilities and staff salaries. Allocations are made also for publishing four modest cultural periodicals with poor contents and circulation.

This policy has deprived the country of meaningful national theatre work and failed to support successful classical or Oriental music groups.

The financial constraint facing the ministry and the RCC has prompted intellectuals, artists and businessmen to call for comprehensive cultural development programmes and moved artists and others to setting up private theatres and galleries.

Qattan is, however, opposed to the private sector controlling culture because he says their work is being executed for sheer profit and so financial means is the decisive element in determining the quality of production and the kind of groups which benefit from the cultural and artistic activities.

"At present, my main concern is to set up semi-RCC centres in the governorates and I have already submitted proposals to implement this idea to the concerned authorities," says Qattan. "One can not discuss a comprehensive cultural development in the country without laying the basic infrastructure, like creating halls, management, equipment and related technical requirements."

He says these are basic elements to achieve a real distribution of culture throughout the country and not to leave Amman with the lion's share.

From loneliness to dreams — a high school for immigrants

By Dorian Benkoil

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Teenagers in blue jeans, sneakers and sweaters grab books from their orange-painted metal lockers and dash off to class. Others playfully slap and shove, and chase each other down the hallway.

The mix of faces, skin colours and body sizes — and the horseplay — could be seen at almost any New York City public school. But stop and listen, and you'll find out why this school is special.

Janey Shek and David Wong, both 18-year-old Hong Kong natives, are chatting in Cantonese about how to lay out an upcoming Chinese-English Club bulletin. Other students converse in Arabic, Portuguese or Thai.

Every student, it seems, has at least some difficulty with English.

And no wonder. The International High School admits only those who have lived in America fewer than four years and who scored in the lowest 20 per cent on an English proficiency test. The school's students, from 60 countries, speak 42 languages.

Around the corner from Janey and David, students scream in their various ton-

gues as they swing from the gymnasium's ceiling during a rope-climbing lesson.

When Derek Fimiaz, a 16-year-old Polish boy, jokes to a compatriot about the girl whose safety rope he's holding, the girl hollers nervously from four metres overhead: "I'm trying my life depends on you."

Sara Siddiqui, 14, of Bangladesh has picked up some Polish, she says, by being around Fimiaz and his three Polish buddies this trimester. They're all part of a group of 24 students who are spending the term together.

In physics lab, too, they support each other. One boy from Ecuador translates for a friend from Nicaragua.

Srihirath and Voutsamay Vanvilay, sisters from Laos aged 16 and 14, respectively, shyly giggle, and struggle to answer questions. They have been in New York only five months.

Instead of sitting in lectures, students face each other and share notes and ideas. Each group of stu-

dents has at least two who speak the same native tongue — or the nearest possible equivalent. The students learn English from each other as much as from teachers and remedial classes.

"The only way to acquire language is to use it. If the teacher is doing all of the talking, the teacher is getting all of the practice," says principal Eric Nadelstern in his basement office.

The students' dreams are as diverse as they are. Sara Siddiqui, her dark eyes shining, smiles and says she plans to be the first from the school at Harvard.

Qing Chen, 19, stands idly strumming his leather jacket and off-handedly says he's not sure he'll become an American citizen. "China is developing so fast" and he wants to go wherever he "can make money," he says.

Each group of 23 or 24 students is a mix of ages, grade levels and skills. For a trimester they take three or four classes that are grouped under a theme,

such as "structures," "American dream" or "motion." The idea is to have a unifying thread so vocabulary and concepts learned in one class can be reinforced in the next.

Motion students, for example, might read science fiction stories in English, do physics experiments in science and learn rope climbing in physical education.

Central and South Americans make up about 38 per cent of the school's 470 pupils. Students from Asia make up the second-largest group at about 20 per cent. The number of Eastern Europeans, now near 20 per cent, is expected to rise, especially from Bosnia.

As recent immigrants, students' adolescent difficulties are often compounded. Many complain of loneliness. "They leave their families. They leave their friends and everything they knew," says Betty Frank, 25, a physics teacher and herself an immigrant from India.

The school's three guidance counselors help with

visas, with getting proof of age from war-torn countries, with how to survive with one or both parents still overseas.

More than 92 per cent of the students get credits from Laguardia Community College, with which the school shares a campus. Every year more than 90 per cent of International High School graduates go on to college.

An air of optimism pervades the school's near-spotless hallways. There are no metal detectors to scan for hidden guns or knives. Colourful student art dots the walls. A magazine rack holds student bulletins in Arabic, Russian, Chinese, Spanish and more.

The school, in the Borough of Queens, feels more intimate than typical New York high schools, which have as many as 4,000 students. To stretch funds, the school budgets for teachers rather than administration. It also saves money by sharing facilities and staff with the college, and it receives financial

grants.

Many teachers seem motivated to give more of their time to students than required by contract. They participate in administrative decisions such as whom to hire and how to use the budget.

A second International High School opened in Manhattan's Chinatown last September with 75 students, and a third is planned for the Borough of Brooklyn next autumn.

The "International High School" Queens opened in 1985 with 56 students.

On a recent Monday, Marjan Makatan, an alumna of the school's first graduating class in 1989, stopped by. Before she joined the school, she and her mother fled Iran after convincing emigration authorities they were Muslim by wearing chadors and reciting parts of the Koran.

Now a graduate of Brandeis University, Makatan says she is applying to medical school.

"It used to take three generations before members of a particular family could fully participate in the American dream," says Nadelstern, the principal. "The challenge before us now is to collapse all of that into a single generation."

Once portrayed as western problem, drug trade booms in Russia

By Andrei Khalip
Reuters

MOSCOW — The deaf-mute outside Moscow's crowded Byelorusky Railway Station who raises his fingers to his lips in a "V" might simply be asking for a cigarette.

But those familiar with Moscow underground life know the real meaning.

The station, packed day and night with commuters, long-distance travellers, beggars and invalids, is a centre of Moscow's flourishing drugs trade. Its small group of mutes are among the biggest dealers.

"Marijuana, opium, hashish — they have anything you need to get stoned. Prices are high, but the stuff is always available," said Alexei, a 20-year-old Moscow University student.

Drugs were strictly forbidden in the Soviet era, when they were described in official propaganda as a scourge of the capitalist

West. Now they are recognised as a problem in Russia.

Officials counted 53,000 drug-related crimes in Russia in 1993, up from 29,000 in 1992 and 16,000 in 1985.

"Addiction disappears under totalitarian rule," said Arkady Kuznetsov, head of the Interior Ministry's Anti-Drugs Department.

"Hitler, Stalin and Musolini annihilated drug-taking by sending all drug dealers to jail. Now it is everywhere."

Mr. Kuznetsov said the scale of drug abuse in Russia could not be compared to that in the West but it was a serious problem.

"It's no wonder. Around one million hectares (2.471 million acres) of land in Russia are covered with wild cannabis, and one hectare (2.471 acres) yields around one tonne of hashish. The calculations are very simple," he said.

Almost half the cannabis and opium available in

Moscow comes from the former Soviet republics of Georgia, Ukraine, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan.

Mr. Kuznetsov said Russia was the only country in the world where consumption of drugs — as opposed to selling them — was not a criminal offence. President Boris Yeltsin lifted a ban on drug consumption in 1991.

A poll published two years ago by the Education Ministry showed 1.5 million of Russia's 159 million population were taking drugs.

"I do not believe these figures too much," Mr. Kuznetsov said. "Two years ago people were too afraid of saying they had ever tried the stuff. Besides, the number of addicts has grown considerably over two years," he added.

"Moscow has become quite a cool place. Everything you ever heard about is on sale here — LSD, crack, heroin and even magic mushrooms," said

Dmitry, 26, a bearded painter.

Opium is sold in straw form which can be boiled in acetone to create a heroin-like substance which users inject.

"Russia has always been a special country and it has specialties in the field of drug production," said Mr. Kuznetsov. "The most dangerous are synthetic drugs, like Trimethylfentanyl, a synthetic heroin."

He said many Russian chemists, unemployed or struggling to survive on 30,000 roubles (\$20) per month, were involved in underground production of synthetic drugs to make ends meet. "Many of them have bright brains, so they use them."

Synthetic heroin is called "glass" in street slang, because one of its chemical components is used in armoured glass.

Mr. Kuznetsov said only two countries — the United States and Russia — were producing this "second generation" drug.

Five grams of "glass", dissolved in 10 litres (two gallons) of water, is enough for 2,000 fixes.

The Interior Ministry also has to combat Russia's new, wealthy drug-using elite.

"They are mostly pop stars, people in the arts and businessmen. They have plenty of dough but nothing to do (so they) just look for some new entertainment," said Mr. Kuznetsov.

Mafia-like criminal gangs run the lucrative business of drug distribution. They are well organised and often outgun demoralised Interior Ministry troops.

They charge high prices. A gram of Colombian cocaine may cost up to \$500, well above the New York price, which Mr. Kuznetsov put at between \$30 and \$40. Few Russians can afford it.

"If you don't have enough money you stick to dirty syringes and boil opium straws in acetone like those hippies do. I prefer getting high once in a while cocaine or crack. It

costs a lot but it's worth it," said one music producer.

Official crackdowns focus on two annual military-style operations to hunt for fields and illicit pharmacies and laboratories.

Mr. Kuznetsov said drug smuggling rings were using Russia as a supply route to European countries, taking advantage of a lax criminal code, corrupt customs officials and permeable borders with ex-Soviet neighbours.

Last year Russian police seized about one tonne of cocaine packed inside cans labelled "meat and potatoes" from Colombia.

Mr. Kuznetsov said it was destined for Western Europe, where it would have a street value of about \$200 million, making it the largest cocaine haul ever intercepted in Europe.

"I doubt there will be a lot of drug sales in Russia in the next 10 or 15 years, but the country is becoming a transit point for world trafficking," Mr. Kuznetsov said.

BOOK REVIEWS

Impressive 'conspectus'

Bahrain Through The Ages: The History
Edited by Shaikh Abdullah Ibn Khalid Al Khalifa and Michael Rice
Kegan Paul International, London 1993, £95

This expensive volume, which is the companion of *Bahrain Through The Ages: The Archaeology*, comprises papers delivered at the historical conference convened by the Bahraini government in 1983 to mark the 200th anniversary of the arrival in Bahrain of the ruling family, Al Khalifa, and its supporters.

Given the rapid progress of current research into the history of the Gulf and the astonishing fact that this publication took ten years to produce, it is hardly surprising that some papers are now out of date — a fact particularly aggravating to those contributors who were given no chance to revise their work. Several other papers are already familiar, having appeared in the journal of Bahrain's Centre of Documentation, *Al Wathiqah*.

More regrettably, this book bears out the view that academic work can never be wholly valid where censorship, no matter how reluctant and discreet, is exercised. Several authorities on Gulf history were judged unsuitable to participate in the conference; and, as the Bahraini minister of information, Tariq Al Mu'ayyad, admits in his introduction, those who did participate were asked "to avoid material... which represented seriously contested views on recent political history". One important paper — by Dr. Hopwood of St. Antony's College, Oxford — was axed in toto because it offended certain individuals in Saudi Arabia.

And yet, despite all the odds, this work has managed to emerge as an impressive-looking volume containing several interesting papers by leading scholars. Proclaimed by the publisher as "a conspectus of current scholarship on the State's history", topics range from Gulf navigation, postal services and Anglo-American rivalry to the role of the Portuguese, commerce and coinage and mediaeval trade relations with Iraq. Two notable papers by Dr. B.J. Slot of the Dutch State Archives in The Hague and Penelope Tuson of the India Office Records in London, point to promising areas for future research within their own archives.

Particularly welcome are papers by two members of the Khalifa family — Khalid Khalifa Al Khalifa and Shaikh Abdullah Khalid Al Khalifa. Their participation in the conference and interest in the publication of its proceedings, together with the completion of Bahrain's superb National Museum in 1988, highlight the emirate's appreciation of the importance and sheer enjoyment of exploring the region's rich history from the pre-Islamic era through the time of the Prophet, the Islamic empires and the British period to the present day — *Middle East International*.

Alan Rush

Strangers in their own land

The Arab Minority in Israel, 1967-1991: Political Aspects

By Jacob M. Landau
Clarendon Press, Oxford, England 1993, £27.50

An Israeli Arab once remarked that "being an Arab in Israel means feeling that one is a stranger in one's own country". Arabs, comprising nearly 20 per cent of Israel's population, lived under military administration until 1966. Today, they still face economic discrimination, land expropriations and neglect by government. Yet, although they remain second-class citizens, Arab subjects of Israel have made economic and political gains which outstrip the achievements of many of their brethren in Arab countries.

Landau's study of the Arab minority in Israel is a meticulously documented book which relies extensively on Arabic and Hebrew sources, analysing the myriad transformations that have occurred since the 1967 war. The conflict had an indelible impact on Israeli Arab society and reestablished cultural, economic and political links severed in 1948.

Arab political organisations within Israel which have supported the Palestinian movement include Al Ard and Abna Al Balad. Other groups, like the National Committee for the Defence of the Land, were instrumental in mobilising the population for Land Day in 1976. Formal political parties advocating Palestinian rights have included the Communists and the Progressive List for Peace. Arab voter participation in Knesset elections has usually matched, and often exceeded, Jewish participation.

Landau concludes that there has been a "Palestinisation" of Israeli Arab society since 1967, with more Arabs asserting their Palestinian identity after the outbreak of the intifada. Yet Arab identity in Israel remains ambiguous. The majority of Arabs seem to support the creation of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel. But very few would leave their homes in Israel to live there.

Readers may criticise Landau's book for whitewashing Israeli history. For instance, when discussing the confiscation of Arab agricultural lands, the author comments in a footnote that "there were some instances in which Arabs who had left their villages, during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, were not allowed to return". Despite such historical understatement, Landau has produced an articulate, comprehensive account of the increasingly politicised Arab minority in Israel — *Middle East International*.

Lawrence Tai

Dial-a-letter

By Jean-Claude Elias

The Fax-Modem is an often neglected computer device. Considering its relatively low cost, its ease of use and small size, one might ask why isn't it a standard item on all personal computers (PC) and has rather been classified as a luxury option.

What can a Fax-Modem do for you? It is in fact two devices in one — you might have guessed — a fax and a Modem. On regular size, desk top PCs, it usually comes as a small electronic board that plugs inside one of the computer's empty slots. It can also be an external box that connects through the computer's serial or parallel ports, or a pocket-size box one can use with notebooks computers.

A standard telephone wire with regular plugs goes from the Fax-Modem inside the PC to the telephone line. The connection is a one minute operation and doesn't take a technician or a specialist to do, provided of course, your supplier did give you the right wire and plugs.

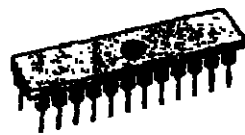
The Fax part is extremely simple to operate. Most of the new models have an intuitive menu-styled operation, easy to follow. Some versions work from within the Windows environment making it even easier to all familiar with the mouse operation. Once the system set, you can type a text with a word processing programme, dial a fax number on the comp or keyboard and transmit the text to your correspondent. You can also transmit drawings or graphs created with your PC, in a similar way.

The quality of computer transmitted faxes is much superior to those transmitted from an ordinary, dedicated fax machine. It honours the original Latin name, "fac simile," which means "exact copy." This is because the PC transmitted document, whether text or image, is sent directly from the computer, in a digital format, and doesn't have to be scanned by the fax machine. The scanning in a fax machine is similar to photocopying and can introduce blurs, distortion and unwanted black stripes.

Naturally the PC fax can also receive faxes. These can be visualised on the screen or printed out on hard copy. Both outgoing and incoming messages are stored on the hard disk of the computer in the form of files.

The trade-off (PC fax versus dedicated fax machine) is that you cannot send a document you already have on hard

chip talk



copy — a letter, a commercial brochure, a personal photograph, etc... For this you would need a PC scanner which would make the whole operation more expensive and certainly more complicated.

The Modem, an acronym for Modulator-DEModulator, works differently. It is used to transmit and receive computer data that is not necessarily in a fax format. You can communicate with your correspondent, even have a dialogue, send (upload) programmes, receive (download) programmes. Via Modems, computers that are thousand of miles apart can work as if in the same room, sharing data, files instantly.

Though processing slightly different data formats, both the PC fax and the Modem are based on the same data transmission principle over regular telephone lines. If shopping for such a device, make sure it can handle high speed transmission rates. The rate is expressed in Baud (from the French inventor of the code, J.M.E. Baudot), or pulses per second. 1200 bauds is slow, 4800 average and 9600 bauds is fast. There are higher rates, but they are not supported on all telephone networks.

Though higher baud rate will save your money by cutting your telephone bill, lower baud rates will ensure perfect transmission and will avoid errors and dropouts. A reasonable compromise is the 4800 baud rate.

With market prices ranging from JD150 to JD300 for consumer models, the Fax-Modem should become standard equipment on PCs and not remain an expensive option. Especially since local authorities, at first reluctant, have allowed the product in Jordan.

Being a housewife during Ramadan

By E. Yaghi

"Really, Ramadan is beautiful," sighed Abla on her first day of fasting. She was all energy and though slightly hungry, determined to begin this holy month with an all out effort at making her first "iftar" or breakfast, something special. Well as she knew, preparing meals three times a day for eleven months out of the year is somewhat different from preparing the first meal to break the fast in Ramadan. Abla hadn't really meant that first meal to be extravagant, but she did mean to make up for her occasional lax in cooking because of her occupation. Yet, she hadn't counted on the day being so short or her task being so mammoth. She had wasted precious moments and suddenly, it was four o'clock.

She frantically spied one of her sons speeding past the kitchen and cried, "Oh, help me please," trying to gain sympathy and then threatening, "or you won't eat on time!"

To her surprise, she had spoken the magic word and suddenly, that son who never entered the kitchen except to eat, zoomed in to help. "What shall I do, Mom?" "I'm going to stuff this sauteed meat with onion into the circles of rolled out dough. You must fry them."

Just then, another son sped past and she hollered, "hey, if you want to eat on time, come and help us!"

Again, this worked like magic and a second son began to help her roll out the dough as she stuffed it. The first son, filled a frying pan with oil and soon began to place the stuffed pastries into the boiling substance. Soon, the whole kitchen filled with smoke while the three worked frantically to finish before the call of the muathen. Meanwhile, son number three fought his way into the eating hall through the mist of smoke, steam and inviting aroma to ask what everyone was doing and could he help. Abla declared: "You certainly can. Hurry and make the ice tea because we're going to be late!"

So the kitchen witnessed the small mob, pushing past each other and almost tripping over each other in their battle against time. At last, they finished their cooking and triumphantly spread the table with the fried pastries, stuffed zucchini and eggplant and a hot soup, plus some dates and ice tea.

With the call to prayer, all eagerly delved into eating the meal and no one noticed that the fried pastries were not quite done except for the father who said in a rather gruff tone: "Don't you think they taste too much like dough?"

Abla replied: "Maybe a little but no one really noticed. We were all too hungry, but next time, we'll try to start earlier."

The first day passed safely enough but by the time three weeks had passed, fasting became much more difficult than at first and no one was as enthusiastic. Abla found herself more forgetful than usual and that the normal chores became more tedious and taxing than before, such as those giant jeans that her sons constantly wore, which were harder than cowhide and the spar of two metres, and a mountain of ironing piled up to the ceiling and always a son who anxiously said: "Hi, Mom, can you iron my pants and shirt please, please, please." When three of them asked the same question in a row, she found herself passing at least an hour just ironing for her sons.

And there was always, whether Ramadan or not, the forever query of: "Mom, where's my socks?"

Of course Abla knew without a doubt that either her washing machine ate a sock or two every laundry day or else, there was an international conspiracy against paired socks, or else there must be some sort of invisible alien that sneaks into the laundry and steals socks and throws them into a black hole in space.

Towards the end of Ramadan, she found herself pretty exhausted what with getting up at four in the morning and remaining awake, fasting, her occupation and rushing home at one to prepare the day's meal. It was all quite a load even though spiritually rewarding.

At times however, Abla seemed to almost sleepwalk at work and she grew bags under her eyes, not from fasting alone, but because of all her work and lack of sleep. However, her growing sons retained their energy and voracious appetites. But the good thing was that they frequently checked the kitchen cooking chores to ensure that their mother would have their meal on time. If not, they always pitched in to help, contrary to the other 11 months of the year when kitchen duty was something to be abhorred and avoided.

In a few more days, Abla, her family and the rest of fasting Jordanians will celebrate the Eid. It will be a welcome relief from long tiresome preparations for the "iftar," and there would be no more waking up at 3:30 every morning for sahour. But still she must get ready for the holiday because her first visitors on the Eid morning arrive before 7 a.m. expecting hot coffee and a welcome reception.

May all those who celebrate the Eid have a very happy holiday!

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

AMAZING FACTS

- Some species of bamboo, a giant perennial grass, bloom only once every 120 years.
- More than 90 per cent of flowers have either an unpleasant odour or none at all.
- A "curtain lecture" is a private scolding received by a husband from his wife.
- The capsicum hot pepper is the hottest of all spices.
- Theodore Roosevelt was the only president of the United States who was not sworn in on a Bible.

LET'S LEARN ARABIC

- Trust me! Saddikni!
- Don't do that again. La ta'al zalek marratan thaniya.
- Don't disappoint me, sweetie. La tokhayyebi zanni ya habeebati.
- I'll tell you all about it. Sa'okhbiraka bikolli shayy.
- You'll have a nice gift. Satahsol ala hadiya latifa.
- You'll pay dearly for that. Satadda al-thaman galyian.
- Won't you have something to drink. Ala tored ann tashrab shay'an?
- I wish you would come with us. Awaddo ann ta'li ma'ana.
- I'd rather stay at home. Offaddil al-bakaa fil bayt.
- We'll always remember your kindness. Sawfa natazzakkar da'imam ma'roofak.
- I can't believe it. La osaddik zalek.
- Can you give me a hand? Hal yomkinoka musa'adati?
- I can't imagine that. La yomkinoni ann atasawwar zalek.

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

CONFERENCE: A business or professional conference predicts profitable news; a political conference indicates increasing responsibilities; a spiritual or religious conference augurs a rise in social status.

DRUMS: To hear drums in your dream forecasts great success and to play them yourself signifies great joy.

INHERITANCE: Receiving one in a dream is usually a straightforward prediction of a legacy to come.

GALE: You may be buffeted by your current difficulties, but you will eventually emerge unbowled.

YOUR MEDICAL GUIDE

DISLOCATION

A dislocation occurs when a bone slips out of place. It usually results from violence and may occur at almost any joint in the body. Perhaps the most common is a dislocation of the shoulder, when the rounded head of the humerus (the bone in the upper arm) slips out of its hollow in the shoulder blade or scapula. There is usually considerable pain, and the joint affected becomes fixed. For those unskilled in the first aid the best thing is to do nothing apart from making the patient comfortable until medical help arrives. Attempts to move the dislocated bone may cause damage to the joint and must therefore be avoided. The part affected may be given some support, for example by a sling or cushion, until the

COOKING IS FUN

CHICKEN KORMA

For a change try an Indian style dish with this mild and creamy curry. Each Indian province has its own curry and the best results for an authentic flavour here is Korma. If, however, you do not find this curry, use any other mild variety. Serve with rice.

COMPONENTS:

- 2 tbs cooking oil
- 4 boneless chicken breasts, skinned and cut into pieces.
- 1 large onion, peeled and sliced
- 2 tbs mild curry powder (korma is best)
- 200ml chicken stock
- 1 tbs tomato puree
- 2 tps sugar
- 150ml single cream
- 25g ground almonds

METHOD:

Heat the oil in a large frying pan and brown the chicken and onion. Add the curry powder and cook for a few seconds, stirring. Blend in the stock, tomato puree, sugar and cream. Bring to the boil, cover and simmer gently for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Just before serving, stir in the ground almonds.

CAKES & CHUCKLES

■ "How was it?" asked the mother to her son who had just taken his first girl to his first dance.

"Oh, fine," he replied. "But every time we got going good on the dance floor, old Harris would cut in."

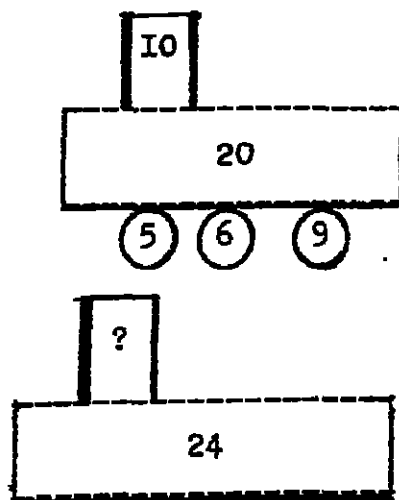
"Well, that's life when you take a pretty date to a party," said his mother.

"I know, I know," the boy said mournfully. "But old Harris is a girl."

CHECK YOUR I.Q.

(A) GENERAL KNOWLEDGE & TEASERS

- If the word "bay" were used by a sportsman, a cook, a geographer, and a builder, what would each man be thinking of?
- If you were looking at the reflection in a mirror or a clock behind you that was striking nine o'clock, what time would the hands in the mirror seem to show? How would the words GUM and NOON appear?
- Find the missing number



JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, March 10

8:30 The End Of A Brave Man

9:30 Flesh And Blood

10:00 News In English

10:20 Faces And Places

11:50 Feature Film — The Old Gringo

Starring: Jane Fonda and Gregory Peck

Friday, March 11

8:30 The End Of A Brave Man

9:30 Walter And Emily

Zak gets a taste of French culture at home and Walter goes back to work to save money to buy Emily a new diamond ring.

10:00 News In English

10:20 G.P.

Playing By The Book

Dr. Steve exposes a medicine company for marketing an untested drug, which causes death in the hospital. The doctor who administers it gets into trouble too.

11:50 Scene Of The Crime

Devil Music

Two beautiful bodies end up in a big aquarium. Both deaths are the result of a promised marriage — proposal that was never kept.

Saturday, March 12

8:30 Family Matters

Stake-out

Carl and his palisawoman



Jane Fonda in a scene from *The Old Gringo*

left alone and soon they have unexpected company.

9:00 Local Programme

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Vice Versa

Starring: David Carradine

A true story of six convicted men held prisoners for life in Alcatraz.

12:00 Golden Palace

Tad

Blanche is suddenly visited by her brother Tad, who seems to embarrass her but he finds in Rose a sympathetic friend.

Sunday, March 13

8:30 You Bet Your Life

The inter-swing quiz show where the winning couple gets the show's grand prize of \$10,000.

9:10 Documentary — Out Of The Past

Realms

A comprehensive look at the two great civilisations in Latin America — The Aztecs that flourished in Mex

he gets a job offer in California, she in Washington.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Topaz

Starring: John Vernon and Dany Robin

An Alfred Hitchcock movie about the Russian KGB succeeding in penetrating NATO, and providing Cuba with nuclear weapons.

Tuesday, March 15

8:30 The Respected Family

Seduction is the theme of this episode — and Victoria's daughter Elizabeth, and sister Ruth, are the objects.

9:10 Wild Jack

Starring: John Schneider

Jack, who lives in the wilderness goes to the city to help his friend's daughter, who is being used and exploited for the money she is going to inherit.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Cape Rebel

11:10 Open All Hours

Wednesday, March 16

8:30 Too Close For Comfort

Henry loses his cosmic cow doll.

9:10 Environments: Pollution

Waste Water

A documentary about waste, and the danger it poses to the environment when it misbehaves.



5 impressive films in Best Picture Oscar race

By Bob Thomas

LOS ANGELES — The unmistakable groundswell for Schindler's List is overshadowing the fact that the Academy Award race for Best Picture contains five impressive films with serious themes.

Consider the subject matter of the nominees — the Holocaust, a miscarriage of justice, subjugation of women in an earlier time, a servant's blind devotion to an unworthy master, and vengeful pursuit of an innocent man.

A look at the films in contention for Best Picture of 1993:

The Fugitive

Transforming the hit 1960s television series into a big-budget movie might have appeared a routine Hollywood rip-off. But producer Arnold Kopelson (Platoon) had been a fan of the show and saw the audience appeal of sympathy for the doctor falsely accused of his wife's murder and anger with the police detective's unrelenting pursuit.

A key to the old show's success: casting David Janssen role as Dr. Richard Kimble. Fortunately, the actor who has starred in half of the dozen biggest box-office winners, Harrison

Ford, saw the film's potential.

"I can't say I ever saw an episode of The Fugitives all the way through," Ford said in an interview. "Of course, I'm familiar with it like anyone else."

"I look for things I like and have an emotional relationship to, something that moves me. I think then I'm prepared to help move the audience. I look for something that has ambition, has a degree of originality and that is challenging to me as an actor."

In The Name Of The Father

In 1975, Irish drifter Gerry Conlon, his father and other relatives and friends were convicted of an Irish Republican Army (IRA) bombing they had no connection with. It took 15 years before a tenacious lawyer exposed police lying and the prisoners were released.

The miscarriage of justice resulted in Conlon's autobiography, which Irish filmmaker Jim Sheridan saw as movie material. He had been looking for a story about a son and a good father, observing there are very few good fathers in Irish literature.

"It's not a political film in the usual sense of the word," Sheridan has said. "One thing it's definitely not is anti-British. I love the English and think they're



Harrison Ford in *The Fugitive*

great people — you can't touch them for loyalty or independence of spirit.

"I hope one of the points of the film is obvious to English viewers — namely that one of the great tragedies of the IRA bombings is that the English have allowed themselves to inflict such terrible damage on their legal system. And I don't think it's anti-English of me to point that out."

The Piano

New Zealand-born Jane Campion won nominations for writing and directing this film. One other woman has been a directorial nominee (Lina Wertmüller for *Seven Beauties* in 1978), but no woman ever had been nominated for director of a film that also was nominated as best picture.

In *The Piano*, Holly Hunter stars as a Scotswoman who comes to colonial New Zealand for an arranged marriage. What is unusual, Miss Campion says, is that she didn't need such stars as Hunter, Sam Neill and Harvey Keitel in order to finance the film.

"The money came from a French company (Ciby 2000) which operates on a kind of Medici principle," she said. "They were supporting without any approvals — the approvals were all with the filmmaker. The

only limitation was the budget, which was about \$7 million....At the time, it was not thought to be a big audience film."

Rave reviews, critics' awards and the Cannes Film Festival prize helped make *The Piano* a box-office winner, grossing more than \$32 million so far in a limited U.S. release.

The Remains Of The Day

The story of an English butler's unquestioning loyalty to his rich, politically naive master seems like unpromising material for a major film, but this movie has again proved the rare talent of James Ivory and Ismail Merchant for turning literary works into successful films.

For 30 years, Merchant and Ivory, with their writing partner Ruth Prawer Jhabvala, have turned out such polished gems as *Maurice*, *A Room With A View* and *Howards End*.

The Remains Of The Day centres on a businesslike butler (Anthony Hopkins) who remains steadfast, despite attempts by his employer (James Fox) to influence English officialdom to appease Hitler.

Director Ivory commented in an interview that major studios had long feared "that the public

wouldn't be interested in serious adaptations of novels set in the past, or even in the present. That has been disproved."

Added producer Merchant: "People are becoming more and more aware that good material or an artistic film has the chance of making enormous amounts of money."

Schindler's List

Already Hollywood's big-



Steven Spielberg (sitting) with the stars of the film *Schindler's List*: (From left) Ralph Fiennes, Ben Kingsley and Liam Neeson

gest hitmaker, Steven Spielberg marked a banner year in 1993. His *Jurassic Park* began its climb to the top of all-time moneymakers and, with *Schindler's List*, he at last won recognition as a filmmaker of serious quality.

Spielberg long had been fascinated by the story of Oskar Schindler, a German who profited from Hitler's invasion of Poland, then saved more than 1,100 Jews from certain death. The director had read Thomas

Keneally's book at the time of "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial, but other projects intervened."

"Schindler's List was something I never thought would happen," Spielberg said after winning the Golden Globe for Best Dramatic Picture. "It came into my life 11 years ago, and it just sort of went through the '80s as I was still making Indiana Jones films. Schindler's List was always there waiting for me. I wasn't ready for it."



Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson in a scene from the movie *The Remains Of The Day*



Holly Hunter stars in Jane Campion's film *The Piano*



A court scene from the film *In The Name Of The Father*. (From left) Standing on the dock are Mark Sheppard, Carol Richards, John Lynch and Daniel Day-Lewis

Selling fantasies in China

By Andrew Browne
Reuters

SHANGHAI — It's not the blue-eyed cover girls or the seductive perfume ads that catch the eye in *Elle* magazine's Chinese edition but the fact that it is sold on newsstands at all.

For *Elle* is one of just two Western magazine ventures in China, the other is *Mickey Mouse*.

A French fashion glossy and an American cartoon comic book are all that Western publishers have to show for years of trying to invest directly in the world's largest single media market.

Barring a sudden collapse of Chinese communism, Dior advertisements and Disney characters are likely to keep the market virtually to themselves.

"Many things in China are changing, but the ideological situation is not changing," said Luo Zhao-tian, editor-in-chief of *Elle*'s mainland Chinese edition.

"It's very difficult — practically impossible — to set up a joint-venture newspaper or periodical."

Rupert Murdoch, the Australian-born international media magnate, was reminded of that when he tried to muscle in on the Chinese publishing scene last year. His plans to add a Shanghai lifestyle magazine called *Better Life* to his stable were slapped down by Beijing.

Only a handful of Asian publishers have had better luck, among them Hong Kong newspaper group

Sing Tao Holdings Ltd., which operates two joint venture magazines in China.

The rest have run into Beijing's brick wall of suspicion against the foreign media, heightened in the last few years by an unwelcome bombardment from the skies by Western satellite broadcasters — including Murdoch's Star TV.

Elle is published every two months under a cooperative agreement between Hachette Filipacchi Presse of France and the Shanghai Translation Publishing House, which is controlled by the municipal government.

Mickey Mouse comics are published in Beijing under a joint venture agreement between the Dutch company Egmont and the People's Post and Telecommunications Press.

The way Mr. Luo tells the story, Beijing was embarrassed into letting in *Elle* magazine in 1988.

Decades of Maoist puritanism, followed by a sudden opening to the West in 1979, had turned the average Chinese woman into a fashion disaster and authorities quickly realised something had to be done.

"Chinese women would wear black skirts and black panyhoses and look like 42nd Street hookers," Mr. Luo recalled. "We wanted to show what was high-class and chic in foreign countries."

Elle got its licence to operate as a kind of trade journal to help raise local standards of fashion and design.



For most Chinese readers, *Elle* is a showcase for a style of life that is still pure fantasy

Fashion pure and simple is a formula that has worked well for *Elle* in Asia, where there are also local language editions in Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea.

In most markets it is a formula that guarantees profits, but not in China, where *Elle* has never made money and doesn't expect to for some time.

At 12 renminbi (about \$1.50), *Elle* is by far the most expensive magazine on local newsstands, and it is picky about its advertisers: Only top-brand names are accepted. But income still cannot cover production and distribution costs.

Circulation is a meagre 130,000, with about 25 per

cent in Shanghai, a sizeable chunk in Guangzhou and Beijing and the rest scattered thinly in 200 cities all over China, making distribution a nightmare.

For most Chinese readers, *Elle* is a showcase for a style of life that is still pure fantasy. A survey last year showed that the average reader earned a monthly 300-600 renminbi (\$35-70); less than a bottle of Christian Dior's Poison perfume.

Still, Mr. Guerin insists he will not take the magazine downmarket to boost sales.

"We're an image magazine," he said. "We're not interested in selling 10 million copies of *Elle* in China tomorrow. We want *Elle* to remain *Elle*."

Bosnian cellist plays for peace

By Clar Ni Chonghaile
Reuters

MADRID — Vedran Smailjovic's voice trembled with emotion as he described life in Sarajevo where he has daily defied shells and sniper fire to play his cello in the ravaged streets.

"It is very important that you know. It is minus 25 degrees Celsius (-13 Fahrenheit). People are hungry, they have no electricity, they have no gas. It's hell," he said.

The 38-year-old Smailjovic, Bosnia's most famous cellist who is currently touring Europe, has become a poignant symbol of a fierce determination to preserve some good in life even in the midst of war.

Smailjovic has played in Rome, London, Paris and Spain.

Sitting on the steps of Barcelona's gothic cathedral, he played Albinoni's Adagio — a piece he has adopted as his musical cry for peace.

He was invited by the organisers of the Music For Peace campaign which since last March has attracted more than 1,000 musicians to Spain's northerly Catalonia region to play the Adagio.

"I try all the time to say with my music: 'Stop the bloodshed' because at the end of the 20th century, in my town alone, more than 12,000 have been killed, more than 2,000 children have died and over 60,000 people have been injured."

Smailjovic was born in central Sarajevo. His

mother was Croatian, his father Muslim. His wife's mother is Serbian, her father Croatian.

"Within a 50-metre (50-yard) radius of my house, there was an Orthodox Church, a Jewish synagogue and a mosque. I never thought about nationality," he told Reuters.

Before the war broke out in April 1992, there were three orchestras in Sarajevo and Smailjovic played with the National Theatre's Opera Orchestra. The orchestras have since merged as members have died or disappeared.

"Some of my colleagues from the orchestra left before the war broke out."

Sitting on the steps of Barcelona's gothic cathedral, Smailjovic played Albinoni's Adagio — a piece he has adopted as his musical cry for peace.

They saw what could happen. Maybe I was stupid. I never thought it could happen," Smailjovic said.

Rehearsals take place at the local television station which means a six-kilometre trek for most of the musicians who then have to practise without electricity.

Smailjovic left Bosnia in December to begin his tour and he plans to return at the end of this month after visits to Belgium, Ireland and Germany.

"It was really very difficult and very dangerous to get out. But just as God made bad people, he made

very human people as well who got me out. Don't ask me how. I don't want to talk about it," he said.

Before his departure, Smailjovic had been busy working for Sarajevo's Winter Festival — a celebration of all the arts which began on Dec. 21 and ends next month. The festival includes symphony concerts, lectures, art exhibitions and film matinees.

"The festival is very important. It's our weapon. We have nothing else, no other weapons," Smailjovic said.

He blames extremist Serbs and Montenegrins for the killing. "It isn't war. It's a massacre of civilians."

a plan, but the next day, my natural reaction was to go and play in the street," he said.

His original idea was to play just once, as a lament for the dead, but friends convinced him to continue and so began his personal defiance of indiscriminate death.

"Of course it is very crazy but when all the town is fire and shells, it doesn't matter if you are in a room, or in a cellar or on the street because the shells are so heavy. It is just a question of God," he said.

He remembers the time when a man fleeing yet another fierce bombardment, stopped — transfixed by his playing. "For one minute, he forgot the shells," Smailjovic said proudly.

On the first anniversary of the war in April last year, Smailjovic put on white tie and tails, sat in the ruins of the town hall and played Bach.

His cello, by a shell, donations helped him buy a new one which he uses to try to the eyes of the world.

"As you see, my language is not very good but with my cello it is easier," he laughed.

In Madrid, Smailjovic appeared on National Television, tears coursing down his face as he rehearsed the mournful Adagio.

"I am an optimist because it must stop. How I really don't know. I have just music and with music I must open eyes."

Brain study reveals roots of personality

By Steve Connor

THE FIRST hard evidence that nature may play a bigger role than nurture in forming human personality emerged at the weekend.

Scientists who studied brainwave patterns in babies a few months old found that fussy babies who fret and are hard to soothe are likely to become shy and withdrawn children with behavioural problems in later life.

The controversial research into the genetic basis of childhood behaviour was presented at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in

San Francisco. It shows that children with a certain pattern of electrical activity in the brain are significantly more prone to becoming shy and introverted. A parallel study demonstrates that genes play a role in deciding which type of personality a child will have.

Nathan Fox, professor of human development at the University of Maryland at College Park, said babies with a high state of electrical activity on the right frontal lobe of the brain are more likely to be shy and introverted than babies with stronger brain-wave patterns on the left frontal lobe. "We are now able to predict, based on an infant's behaviour and the phys-

iological activity of his brain, which child is likely to be shy and withdrawn at the age of two," he said. "Our studies go up to the age of seven and we feel confident we've identified a physiological pattern that reflects activity on different sides of the brain which are markers or fingerprints for personality."

The research involved testing 400 children with tapes of recorded speech, moving mobiles and cotton swabs dipped in alcohol to see their reactions. About 20 per cent became unduly aroused and fearful, and this group tended to have electrical excitability in the right side of their brains.

Professor Fox said these children may have trouble making friends and are likely to shy away from being active in a group. They may be more anxious, which can show up as depression or disruptive behaviour in later life, he said. "What we are saying is that when it comes to personality, we do not start with a blank slate." Parents can help minimise the risks of problems developing in these children.

Other researchers who studied temperaments in 700 pairs of twins found the first hard evidence that aspects of personality have a genetic component, according to Hill Gold-

smith, professor of psychology at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. "Our genes seem to account for about half the variability we see in temperament," he said, however, that upbringing can override a genetic tendency. "It's a fallacy to believe that anything with a genetic input is not modifiable."

Jerome Kagan, professor of psychology at Harvard University, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, said the value of researching into the genetics of personality is that a "sizeable burden of guilt" can be lifted from parents who feel it may be their fault if a child is overly shy and introverted. He said the human brain has at

least 150 different chemicals, such as neurotransmitters and natural opiates.

"They determine the firing patterns that make a child a little more active, or a little less active; a little more anxious or a little less anxious,"

Differences between people should come as no surprise because although everyone has these 150 chemicals "we inherit them in different concentrations — a million different tomato soups", he said. "That is why there is a large number of different temperaments — some rare, some common — and this is a new area of research. It is just beginning." — Independent.

Cats said to carry bacteria that can infect owners

CHICAGO (R) — A bacteria carried by many cats can infect humans with mild to life-threatening ailments such as a fever similar to that suffered by troops during the world wars, researchers said Tuesday.

People with suppressed immune systems — such as AIDS patients and the elderly — are particularly susceptible to infections from the bacteria, *Rochalimaea henselae*, according to researchers at the University of California at San Francisco.

Because the number of people with suppressed immune systems is increasing, "it is probable that the reported incidence of *Rochalimaea*-associated human disease will increase substantially," wrote Dr. Jane Koehler in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The researchers noted that cats and other pets are often recommended as companions to people with AIDS and the elderly.

Americans own 57 million felines, or about one for every three households.

Blood samples taken from 61 cats in the San Francisco area found that 25 — or 41 per cent — carried the bacteria.

Treatment with antibiotics can cure humans infected with the bacteria who may become infected with bacteria from the cats' mouths or claws, the researchers wrote.

Both antibiotics and flea control are useful in stopping the infection from spreading to humans. The infections do not appear to harm the cats themselves.

The author of the study said it should not be interpreted as a call for people to get rid of cats.

"I certainly don't advocate getting rid of cats. For the elderly and many others it's their only link to the world," said Dr. Koehler. "I'd suggest that people wash their hands after handling them and wash any scratches or bites immediately with soap and water."

"I hope there isn't an overreaction," said Fred Scott, a veterinarian at the Feline Centre at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. What has changed, he said, "is the increase in the number of immunosuppressed people" who are more susceptible to an array of diseases.

The various human ailments caused by the bacteria include an illness close to trench fever, a now-rare chronic disease often spread by lice among troops stuck in the trenches of Europe during both world wars.

Others include *Bacillary Angiomatosis*, which causes lesions on the skin, bones and some organs, and cat-scratch fever, which has flu-like symptoms and causes lymph nodes near the scratch to become swollen and painful.

'Nicotine reaches fetuses of mothers exposed to secondhand smoke

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Scientists found chemical evidence that nicotine can reach a nonsmoking pregnant woman's fetus if she is routinely exposed to secondhand smoke.

The evidence turned up in hair samples from newborns, suggesting long-term exposure to nicotine and other potentially harmful components of tobacco smoke, said researcher Dr. Gideon Koren.

The study didn't investigate whether the exposure affected the babies' health. But previous research suggests children of women exposed to secondhand smoke two to three hours a day while pregnant might have an increased risk of subtle problems with speech, language, intelligence and attention span.

Prior research also shows that when a pregnant woman smokes during pregnancy, risks to a fetus include low birthweight,

prematurity and possible long-term effects on mental development, Dr. Koren and his co-authors said in the latest issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association (AMA)*.

Dr. Koren, a professor of pediatrics, pharmacology and medicine at the University of Toronto, spoke in an interview before presenting his results at an AMA news briefing.

Dr. Neal Benowitz of the University of California, San Francisco, said the

study's result was convincing but not surprising.

"It's really unclear what it means, if anything, in terms of babies' health," said Dr. Benowitz, who wasn't involved in the study and also researches the effects of nicotine.

Dr. Koren said he suspected secondhand smoke may harm fetal health only if combined with other risk factors like an inadequate oxygen supply. Carbon monoxide from smoke may itself reduce the supply of

oxygen to fetuses, he said.

The study included babies of 36 mothers who smoked, 23 nonsmoking mothers who said they were regularly exposed to secondhand smoke and 35 nonsmoking mothers who reported no regular exposure to secondhand smoke.

Using hair samples from the newborns, researchers looked both for nicotine and cotinine, which the body creates from nicotine. Because nicotine is eliminated quickly from the body,

the longer-lasting cotinine is the more reliable indicator of extent of exposure to smoke, researchers said.

For infants of women exposed to secondhand smoke, levels of cotinine were about twice those found for infants of non-exposed mothers. They were also about one-fourth the levels found for infants of smoking mothers.

Infants of non-exposed mothers showed some cotinine because of small amounts of nicotine in foods, Dr. Koren said.

Scientist hunting gay gene downplays worries of test

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — The U.S. government scientist who discovered a possible genetic basis for homosexuality have played down concerns that his research could lead to prenatal testing for homosexuality.

"There will never be a

test that will tell if someone's going to be gay, and we know that for a scientific fact," Dean Hamer, a scientist with the National Cancer Institute, told reporters at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Hamer and his colleagues published a study last July in which they linked instances of male homosexuality to a small stretch of DNA on the X Chromosome. They are currently engaged in a second round of broader tests.

While some gay rights advocates applauded word of the possibility that sexual orientation could be genetic, others worried that any discovery of a "gay gene" could lead to pre-natal testing for sexual orientation — and to parents aborting children they know might be

gay.

But Dr. Hamer said he would prevent such testing because if his team discovered the gene they would keep the property rights.

But he was quickly forced to retreat from that position.

"You can't copyright a gene," Daniel Kevles, a professor at the California Institute of Technology, said.

Dr. Hamer also agreed that ultimately, the choice of whether to take a hypothetical test to determine a fetus's sexual orientation would be up to the child's mother — a scenario that was dramatized earlier this year in the Broadway play *Twilight Of*

The Gays, by Jonathan Tolins.

Dr. Kevles cautioned that the media has overreacted to Dr. Hamer's initial reports, and said that history shows society should be sceptical about biological explanations for human behaviour.

He said California and other states, earlier in the century, championed sterilising some people based on a belief that feeble-mindedness was the basis for aberrant moral values. He also evoked the spectre of the Nazis' eugenics programme.

"The hands-down winners were the Nazis, who sterilised several hundreds of thousands of people," Dr. Kevles said.

Study: AZT limits AIDS infection in newborns

NEW YORK (R) — A federally financed study has found that the drug AZT dramatically reduced the transmission of the AIDS virus from infected mothers to their newborns, the New York Times has reported.

Quoting government health officials, the daily said the findings were considered so significant that the study was ordered stopped, and the 59 U.S. and French medical centres that participated were being told to offer AZT to the pregnant women who had been receiving placebo.

Dr. Harold Jaffe, an epidemiologist and the top scientist on the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) at the government's Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta told the Times the study is "the first indication that mother-to-child transmission of HIV can be at least decreased, if not prevented."

The newspaper said that about 4 million women give birth each year in the United States, and health officials estimate that 6,000 to 7,000 of the women are infected with the AIDS virus, HIV. About 1,500 to 2,000 of their children later become HIV infected.

Transmission of the virus to newborns is a much bigger health problem in Africa, Asia and South America where infection rates among childbearing women overall can reach 10-to-30 per cent in some areas, the paper said, quoting another official of the CDC.

He added that in some areas of the United States, including some urban areas in the northeast, the comparable figure is as high as five per cent.

The double-blind study involved 477 HIV-infected women at 50 medical centres in the United States and nine in France who enrolled during their 14th to 34th week of pregnancy. The women agreed to receive AZT or placebo pills during pregnancy and labour.

Each newborn then received AZT in a syrup for six weeks, the paper said.

Arthritis drug may delay or halt Alzheimer's disease

By Paul Reccer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Anti-inflammatory drugs used against arthritis also tend to slow or block the onset of mind-destroying Alzheimer's disease, a study suggests.

The study, published in the journal *Neurology*, compared the drug-taking history of 50 pairs of elderly twins and found that the twin who had been taking anti-inflammatory drugs for arthritis was least affected by Alzheimer's.

"We found that the twins who had used anti-inflammatory drugs had four times greater likelihood of being the later-affected and the non-affected member of the pair," said Dr. John Breitner, a Duke University researcher and lead author of the study. "For identical twins, there was a 10-to-1 difference."

Anti-inflammatory drugs included Ibuprofen, Piroxicam, Naproxen and some steroids that were used in the 1950s and 1960s, but which are no longer prescribed. All of these drugs, at proper doses, tend to limit in-

flammation throughout the body, including the brain.

Dr. Leonard Berg, chairman of the medical advisory board of the National Alzheimer's Association, cautioned that the evidence of benefit "is not convincing enough to advise the population at large to take anti-inflammatory drugs to avoid Alzheimer's. There are side effects to these drugs."

Alzheimer's disease is a fatal disorder in which brain cells die and patients progressively lose memory and function.

Dr. Breitner said the protective effect of the anti-inflammatory drugs was most pronounced in twin pairs in which one member developed Alzheimer's after age 71.

He said the statistical evidence was strongest in women.

"For the female pairs, all 12 pairs studied had the association where the member of the pair who used the anti-inflammatory drug did not have Alzheimer's or developed it late," said Dr. Breitner. "The probability of that occurring by chance is less than one in a thousand."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

DEFINITIONS
By Olive Dumas

ACROSS

- 1 Sponges
- 7 "Des file" — I
- 11 "L" (TV)
- 15 Agate
- 18 Bellman's player
- 19 City in Portugal
- 20 Cal wine valley
- 21 One — million
- 22 Little farm animal
- 23 Last from
- 24 Sponges
- 25 Sponges
- 26 In reserve
- 27 Sponges
- 28 Self-satisfied
- 29 Begins
- 30 — a hand (assist)
- 31 Young lass
- 32 — a meter
- 33 Durable wood
- 35 — a parade

DOWN

- 1 Lustrous resin
- 2 Originate
- 3 Entranced oneself
- 4 Man of
- 5 Prospects?
- 6 Robert —
- 7 Adjust
- 8 Shout clear of
- 9 Drenched
- 10 Globe
- 11 Hood's weapons
- 12 Kind of nest egg
- 13 Looter
- 14 Persistent
- 15 Large game
- 16 Man of the hour?
- 17 — even heel
- 18 Make the grade
- 19 More entable
- 20 Saw split
- 21 Ring stone

Diagrams

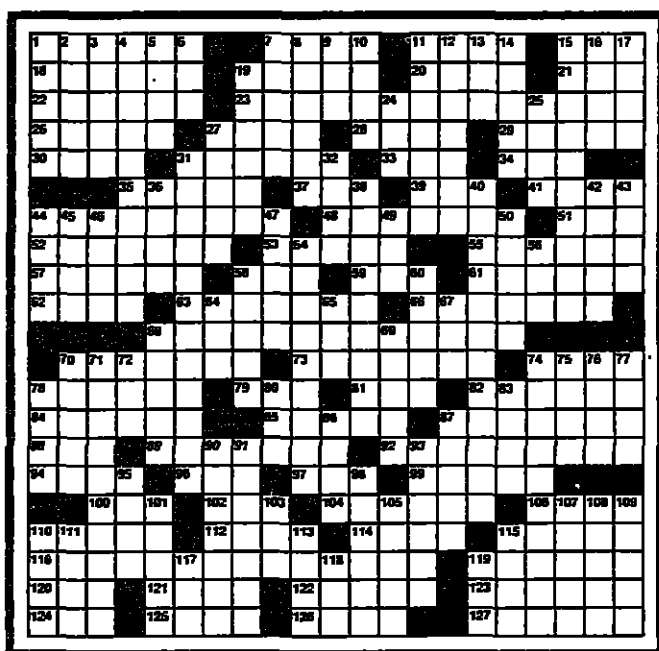
19 x 19. By Frances Burton

ACROSS

- 1 Unduly one
- 5 Fashion
- 9 Canonic leader
- 10 Singing insects
- 11 "Des file" — I
- 12 Pic
- 13 Mide
- 14 Mrs. Corp
- 15 Adult
- 28 Debutant cards
- 31 Tendon
- 32 Vicary godless
- 33 Vicary godless
- 34 Very strange
- 35 Ending a subscription
- 36 Sharp
- 37 Imitate
- 38 Narrative
- 39 Poem
- 40 More
- 41 — a Vegas
- 42 Whopper

DOWN

- 12 Headline
- 13 Hour away
- 14 Carpentry item
- 15 Relax
- 16 Rent again
- 17 Paul
- 18 Noble Italian
- 19 Twist sideways
- 20 Volunteer State
- 21 Ending a
- 22 Jurassic animals
- 23 Blits
- 29 Demented
- 30 Fame
- 31 Smallish
- 32 Come about
- 33 Rent again
- 34 Shabby
- 35 Date's opposite
- 36 Enormous
- 37 Tolerable
- 38 Cladical ridges
- 39 Nemeses
- 40 Breggy
- 41 Wren and hen



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Why young magicians performed for the first time before huge crowd by pulling rabbits out of new hat.
2. My fair maid friend staves up the steps, steps up the stairs, and steps at many steps till she drops.
3. Tenthin' blackbird accepted ride, when proffered, on back of bicycle built for two.
4. A more crisp potato chip has no competition.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. YOUKUELCY HW MZIEO ILY LC WDDE
OWWLULOCZ EDLENLCYM LM ROLCT
REISON WHY SICK UINOM HW CIDMOL

—By Ed Haddleton

2. KWQUE KWED RNY TDYFDEU WU WUAK
VEE KWAZY NUT KWEQOF RBVU BV TDVT
DU UVR KWQZ

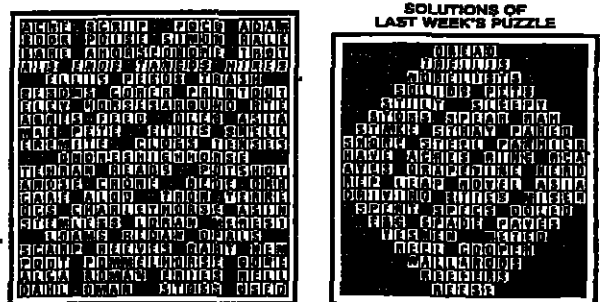
—By Duane H. McGogy

3. ST BESTAR FUNFIT OSNSHZ LYCC S
FUNFITLIT LNUO SNYIHW LAZ BUQFULR
TLNZLT. QYWCZRTAUWZ EUL IO
BSFZT.

—By Rita Salvato

4. OI CK PUMK UDZ SM TWIJWNE CPLYP
UWK NIWK LOLISLY SPUD PUTTZ JUNK
EPICE

—By Frank N. Stein



SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

هنا من الأهل

By John Rettle

ONE DAY in January, Rajesh broke a tradition that has ruled his village for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years. He slapped Azad, a man of higher caste, who had stolen some peas from his field.

By immutable Hindu custom "Untouchables" such as Rajesh are not allowed to share a meal with those of higher caste, pray in a temple or use their well for fear of polluting them — never mind touch, far less hit, them.

No matter that Azad himself was a Kurni, one of the Other Backward Castes (OBCs) as official jargon has it, who are despised by Brahmins and other high-caste Hindus.

He in his turn despises Harijans (Children of God), as Mahatma Gandhi dubbed Untouchables. However, they have now rejected this name as patronising and prefer to be called Dalits — the Oppressed.

The outrage committed by Rajesh in the village of Dauna, in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, had to be punished.

His middle-aged mother, Shivpatia, was stripped and paraded through the village at gunpoint for an hour. No one tried to stop this.

She was lucky. She was not killed, raped or beaten — merely horribly humiliated in a society whose sexual mores are intensely conservative.

Others have been less fortunate. Since the coalition between OBCs, Dalits and Muslims took power in Uttar Pradesh nearly two months ago, dozens of men, women and children — the majority of them Dalits — have been killed, raped, beaten or had their huts burned down in caste clashes.

With a population of nearly 150 million, about 17 per cent of India's total and far more than any other state, Uttar Pradesh's fate is crucial to India. The defeat of the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) sent shock waves through the country. It had ruled for two years until dismissed by Delhi after Hindu zealots tore down the Ayodhya mosque 15 months ago, and was confident of returning to power.

And just because the new government is a coalition of OBCs, represented by the Samajwadi Party (SP), and Dalits in their Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), any violent clashes at grassroots level are watched closely by sympathisers and opponents alike.

The defeated BJP, together with its many sympathisers in the Hindi-language press, is desperate to stir up trouble in the hope of smashing the coalition. It has also called for presidential rule to be reim-

posed because, in the words of the party's state president, Kakra Mishra: "Uttar Pradesh is sheer lawlessness."

But the Calcutta Telegraph, pointed out that the figures for major crimes in the same period two years ago, when the BJP ran the state, were if anything slightly higher.

Other commentators have noted that pro-BJP newspapers often ignore more frequent clashes between Dalits and high castes, because they do not divide the coalition.

This violence has been widely described as a "caste war". It is no such thing, but merely a continuation of the age-old oppression of Dalits by everyone else. "Largely a one-way war," observed the Telegraph.

What is new is the success of Dalits in exercising their votes to secure a share of power in their own right.

In several states they have hitched a ride with other parties. In neighbouring Bihar it was the leftwing Janata Dal led by the chief minister, Laloo Prasad Yadav. In the old days it used to be the ruling Congress Party, and in a few places it still is. But the Dalits have grown increasingly disillusioned with Congress and, in Uttar Pradesh, the Janata Dal.

As the most downtrodden in society, they have often been forced to stay at home while their vote was used by higher castes. But last November the formidable chief election commissioner, TN Seshan, ensured that Uttar Pradesh's Dalits could cast their own votes. All over India politicians are now wondering how to attract the Dalit vote.

But it will be a long time before they feel the benefit of that vote in the villages, where three out of every four Indians live. More often than not they are forced to live on the outskirts of their village. The poorest and least educated, they do the filthiest and most menial jobs.

Their leader in Uttar Pradesh, Kanshi Ram, has no programme and refuses to discuss one. "Just give us the power and the rest will fall into place," he declares, as he stumps the length and breadth of India in an effort to repeat the triumph in the state.

Originating with the Aryan invasions, so most scholars believe, early castes represented the four main occupations in society: Brahmins (priests), Kshatriyas (warriors), Vaishyas (creators of wealth) and Shudras (labourers). This aimed at an efficient division of labour.

Over the centuries these four groups were divided and subdivided into occupations and professions which became hereditary, hierarchical and even, the Brahmins pro-



India's 'backward' castes no longer prepared to sit on the scrap heap (File photo)

The awakening of the oppressed

India's 'Untouchables' flex their political muscles

claimed, divinely ordered — so entrenching their position at the top.

There are said to be as many as 1,000 castes and sub-castes, often with different statuses in different regions. Even the Dalits have sub-castes and the upper Dalits often despise the lower, and may even vote BJP.

At the village level many OBCs, particularly the Kurnis, are landowners, analogous to Kshatriyas, who have no intention of allowing competition from landless Dalit labourers.

Indeed, Kurnis from all political parties and many states recently held a rally in Patna, capital of Bihar, to boost their caste's upward mobility. Many have gone to the towns, secured an education and taken government or professional jobs.

Perhaps the closest OBC ally

of the Dalits in Uttar Pradesh are the Yadavs, the cattle herders, although they are regarded by some specialists, such as the sociologist Ranji Kothari, as a Backward, rather than a lower Other Backward Caste. The difference is crucial.

Malayam Singh Yadav, the SP leader, is the state's chief minister who has to walk a slippery tightrope to keep his minority coalition in power with the support of the few Congress and Janata Dal members of Uttar Pradesh's assembly.

But the Yadavs, who are also landowners, have clashed more than once with Dalits. Since the BSP victory in November, Dalits in many villages in the state have put up statues of their great hero, Bhim Rao Ambedkar, an Untouchable contemporary of

Gandhi who went abroad to become a distinguished lawyer, and fought for his fellows' rights. Dr. Ambedkar eventually rejected Hinduism to become a Buddhist.

In the village of Fatehullapur some local Yadavs complained that the land on which the statue was placed one night belonged to them. But Dalits claimed that they had also used it for tethering cattle and storing cow dung. It turned out to be common land, but the incident shows that many clashes originate in land disputes.

The late Dr. Ambedkar has recently been the cause of

much more violent clashes in his native Maharashtra state.

Acutely aware of the need to placate Dalits, Maharashtra's powerful chief minister, Sharad Pawar, finally decided to implement a unanimous decision of the state assembly 16 years ago to name the Marathwada University after Dr. Ambedkar. Violent upper-caste rioting in 1978 blocked the change.

On this occasion, 11 people were killed and several Dalit villages were burned. But the decision went through.

The BJP is deeply threatened by the alliance of

Dalits, OBCs and Muslims against the upper castes who support it. Its message is Hindu unity against others, notably Muslims. But Dalits and OBCs are beginning to see that such unity merely prolongs the old repressive order, and that their vote can be crucial in radically reforming it — especially if they are joined by Muslims.

Unless the alliance holds, the old order will continue. "No single caste has sufficient numbers to win an election, which accounts for the SP-BSP combine," said Mr. Kothari. "The struggle is between the

pluralistic concept of caste, and the hierarchical — the Brahminical concept of a society which says: 'I, not you, will define what you are.'

"But now those at the bottom are saying: 'We're going to do it.' It's the struggle of the toiling classes who were left out of the state and the market."

But, said Mr. Kothari, "Caste is always going to be stronger than an Indian identity... It gets transformed in the process of democratic politics, but you can't beat it."

The Guardian

King returns after Umra

(Continued from page 1)

King had no scheduled meeting with the Saudi monarch before he left for Umra, did not hide their disappointment.

The attitude by the Saudis was definitely negative and not conducive to reconciliation," said a senior official.

"When interests of states are at risk, top state officials should rise above personal disputes," he added.

Western diplomats here concur with the disappointed officials. Analysts describe the Saudi decision as "counterproductive."

News agencies quoted Saudi diplomats as saying that while they had been told by Jordanian officials that there was no scheduled meeting between the two monarchs, "the royal court only informed us that the King wanted to perform umra," a senior Saudi diplomat, who refused to be identified, was quoted as saying by the AP. "There was no request for any high-level meetings."

A source close to the palace said there was no attempt by the Saudis to make any high-level contact with the King or

any member of his delegation. "We are very disappointed," said the source. "The King was reaching out in reconciliation but King Fahd did not respond."

Although neither Jordan nor Saudi Arabia officially confirmed a reconciliation meeting, official sources had privately said that the two kings were to meet Tuesday for the first time since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis in 1990.

Relations between the two kingdoms soured after Iraq invaded Kuwait in Aug. 1990 when Jordan refused to join Saudi-based U.S.-led multinational forces that drove Iraq out of Kuwait.

Jordan, at the time, declared that while it condemned Iraq's takeover of its smaller neighbour Kuwait it felt that the problem had to be contained within Arab ranks.

King Hussein conducted a shuttle diplomacy between Iraq and Egypt immediately after the invasion, trying to withhold an Arab League condemnation of Iraq with Iraqi leadership promises that he was ready to withdraw from Kuwait.

His attempts to contain the

problem within Arab ranks, however, failed when the Arab League voted to condemn Iraq despite earlier promises to withhold the decision.

Saudi Arabia, enraged by the Jordanian position, responded by cutting off much-needed economic aid to Jordan and discontinued its fuel supplies to the country.

Relations suffered a serious setback and diplomatic missions between the two countries have operated with minimum staff since that time.

Officials here hoped that a meeting between the two monarchs would have turned a new page in bilateral relations.

"The Saudis had told us that the King was welcome to perform the Umra but that there was to be no scheduled meeting with King Fahd," a senior official said.

"Yet we were hopeful that this meeting would be arranged by the time King Hussein arrived in Saudi Arabia," the senior official added.

Analysts believed that King Fahd's decision to meet Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Yemeni leader Ali Abdullah Saleh was an "encouraging" sign that the Saudi leadership would also move to normalise relations with Jordan.

Hebron settlers are confident

(Continued from page 1)

ment of Kiryat Arba adjacent to Hebron.

Her husband Jamil said settlers had thrown stones at their house six or seven times since the massacre.

"They have been attacking us for the past 20 years. I do not think that they will ever stop," he said.

Arab Hebron settlers, residents curse the PLO for exploring ways to continue the peace talks almost as much as they curse Israel.

A brief attempt to lift the curfew for two hours Monday morning ended with clashes between tennagers converging on the six Jewish houses and the soldiers guarding them.

Between 1,000 and 1,500 soldiers are now protecting the settlers.

The day ended with two Palestinians dead from army gunfire and four wounded. The death toll since the massacre is eight.

Oued Ben Ami, spokesman for Prime Minister Rabin on security matters, said the curfew in Hebron is indefinite. Elsewhere in the occupied territories the last four curfews were lifted Tuesday.

The residents defy the curfew when the occasion is important enough. One such occasion was a wake for the two men killed Monday, shot after they threw rocks at an army jeep.

Israel, PLO remain deadlocked

(Continued from page 1)

nian self-rule authority in the occupied territories, they said.

Mr. Rabin disagreed with PLO demands in a Security Council resolution calling for international protection for Palestinians in the occupied territories and for disarming settlers, they said.

A PLO negotiator told Reuters the organisation is sticking to its demands resulting from the Hebron massacre, which are:

- International protection throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip with a focus on areas where clashes between Israelis and Palestinians are likely to happen, such as Hebron.
- Dismantling of some Jewish settlements which consti-

tute potential sources of violence.

— Banning settlers from carrying arms outside settlements.

Reopening the settlements issue which was to be discussed only two years from now in the PLO-Israel negotiations.

Israel has said it would consider negotiating an unarmed international force but has ruled out disarming any but the most extreme settlers and uprooting any settlement.

A top Arafat aide said Tuesday that a summit with Mr. Rabin was out of the question until the Jewish state agrees to guarantee the security of Palestinians in the occupied lands.

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One in ten Americans rely on charities to eat

CHICAGO (R) — One in 10 Americans, or an estimated 26 million people, rely on charitable food agencies to eat, many of them families driven into the ranks of the hungry by joblessness, a study by the largest U.S. food bank said Wednesday.

Second Harvest, which distributes thousands of tonnes of donated food and groceries annually, said nearly half its hungry clients are children, many from households where the chief breadwinner has lost a skilled job and is unable to find another.

"This study reveals a whole new realm of hungry people," said Christine Vladimiroff, president of Second Harvest. "It breaks the stereotypical images of the homeless as those who are (the) hungry."

More than two thirds of the households using charitable

food outlets had no adult working. A majority of them jobless for more than three months, said the study, funded by Kraft General Foods.

The study by a marketing research firm received responses from 11,822 agencies, including food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and other emergency feeding programmes over an 18-month period. Second Harvest, a network of 185 food banks that supplies 41,587 charitable agencies, said it was the most comprehensive study ever done on such programmes.

The demand for donated food is growing, with some agencies having to turn away hungry clients and reduce the size of food aid packages to stretch supplies. Second Harvest projected food demand at 120.5 million pounds (54.2 million kilograms) in 1993, a 16

per cent increase from the year before.

While an estimated one in nine Americans used food stamps, less than half of those who come to emergency food programmes receive the government food vouchers.

The study found that less than one in five recipients of food aid were homeless, and only eight per cent could be considered transients.

The makeup of charitable clients was skewed toward children, senior citizens and African-Americans, with a higher percentage seeking food from the agencies than their proportion of the population as a whole.

Children under age 17 accounted for 43 per cent of those receiving emergency food aid, although they represent 26 per cent of the population.

Britain goes on job offensive ahead of Detroit summit

LONDON (R) — Britain is going to the Group of Seven (G-7) jobs summit in Detroit next week convinced that its deregulated labour market holds the solution to the developed world's unemployment problem.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke told a news conference Tuesday that other countries were coming round to Britain's way of thinking.

"The fact is, other Europeans are readily understanding the importance of having flexible labour markets," Mr. Clarke said at a news conference. "Our missionary work is paying off."

U.S. President Bill Clinton has invited the other G-7 countries — Canada, Japan, Germany, France, Italy and Britain — to Detroit on March 14 and 15 to discuss ways of bringing down unemployment.

Some 7.8 per cent of the workforce was unemployed in the 24 developed countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development at the end of 1993.

Britain has managed to bring down its unemployment total by 205,000 since January 1993 to 2.79 million, or to 9.9 per cent from 10.6 per cent of the workforce. The government

claims that a newly flexible labour market allowed the rate to start falling very early after the end of the 1990-92 recession.

"The reason we're going (to Detroit) and taking it so seriously is we hope to build on the tide of opinion which we think is slowly moving in our direction," Mr. Clarke said, presenting a summit policy paper, "the U.K. Approach."

Mr. Clarke said Britain's approach was based on three principles:

— Solid macroeconomic policies, with the aims of low inflation and sound public finances.

— Free trade, vital for world

economics to flourish.

— Structural reforms, particularly in the labour market, to ensure labour flexibility and encourage investment in training, and measures to encourage small and medium-sized firms.

The paper had nothing to say about public works programmes of the kind suggested by the European Commission to create jobs, and Mr. Clarke rejected the idea that demand management had a role to play, though he welcomed fiscal stimulus plans in Japan.

Mr. Clarke denied that Britain would be isolated in its refusal to consider job-creation schemes, insisting that the political climate had been "utterly transformed" in the past few years.

Since 1979, Britain has enacted a series of trade union reforms and amended employment protection legislation to ensure flexibility of wages and work conditions. Mr. Clarke denied these policies had undermined workers' rights and endangered the welfare state.

Abu Dhabi, BCCI liquidators agree \$1.8b deal

ABU DHABI (R) — Liquidators of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) and its Abu Dhabi shareholders have agreed an improved deal to compensate creditors, a source close to the talks said Wednesday.

Touche Ross and key Abu Dhabi shareholders ended talks last week on a provisional agreement for the majority BCCI owners to pay \$1.8 billion, \$100 million more than previously offered, to settle all claims by creditors worldwide, the source said.

"An agreement in principle has been reached. The talks are not still going on," he told Reuters in a reference to reports in London that the talks were continuing.

Touche Ross announced a provisional agreement in London Tuesday but later said it was premature.

The source described the delay as an administrative technicality "because all of the people had not been informed."

Israeli economy loses some luster

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's economy, which only months ago had shined in the glow of a peace deal with the PLO, has lost some luster.

Scandal and a slump have hit the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, the International Monetary Fund has cautioned that inflation could be making a comeback and peace prospects have dimmed in the aftermath of the Hebron mosque massacre.

"The economy is in a slow-down," Pinhas Landau, editor of Israel's Telegraph financial newspaper, wrote Wednesday, pointing to a real change in the atmosphere and market activity in the past two to three months.

Official statistics in the coming months will tell whether the bubble has burst, but financial analysts agree that Israel's new image as a key player in the future economy of a peaceful Middle East is fading.

Since the beginning of the year, the stock market's Mishkan blue chip index has plunged about 12 per cent.

Traders point to a widening investigation into share manipulations — the biggest scandal to plague the exchange since the 1983 collapse of bank shares — as a main factor behind the slump on a market that had boomed in recent years.

Many Israelis who poured money into the market for tax-free gains are worried, saying the drop reflects a fundamental souring of the national mood.

Two brokers and a share investment adviser were arrested Tuesday by the watchdog Securities and Exchange Commission. At least three other brokers were detained last month on suspicion of illegal trading. No one has been brought to trial yet.

"Unlike developed bourses abroad, Tel Aviv is influenced by various interest groups,

acting alone or in tandem, who exploit multiple cracks that are not plugged by law or regulations," former finance minister Yitzhak Mordechai said.

In an article published Wednesday in the Yedioth Ahronoth daily, he described the stock exchange as "very nervous."

Treasury officials said it was too early to gauge the effect that the Hebron massacre of some 40 Palestinians by a Jewish settler might have on economic activity, which finally edged higher 0.4 per cent in January after no change in the last months of 1993.

They have forecast that the subsequent sealing of the occupied territories from Israel, a move that is keeping tens of thousands of Palestinian labourers away from their jobs in the Jewish state, will do little damage because many Israeli employers have learned from past closures how to cope.

Travel agents report on major cancellations of bookings by foreign tourists. Organisers of an international business conference held in occupied Jerusalem three days after the massacre said they were encouraged by deals made, totalling \$45 million.

But the warning signs are out.

The International Monetary Fund, in a preliminary report on the Israeli economy published Sunday, cautioned against higher inflation and said the central bank might have to raise interest rates, as it did at the end of last year.

Inflation was 11.2 per cent last year. The government and Bank of Israel have set a target of eight per cent for 1994.

"Another interest rate rise at this stage would be out of place and the governor of the Bank of Israel knows my opinion on this matter," Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said in an interview published Wednesday in Telegraph.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MARCH 10, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Difficult aspects are in effect early in the day, so use caution in all endeavours at this time. Don't force issues with others who differ in their point of view, with you. Hear them out.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study every angle of your financial affairs and set up a sensible plan for the days ahead. Think of loved ones, especially the children.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Enjoy the company of old friends and make new ones who can help to make your life richer. Be wide awake to new opportunities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Show your finest talents at the tasks you are doing and get excellent results from it. Don't spend money faster than it comes in.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be with good friends and relieve tensions you have been under for a long time. Be careful not to exploit friends or you will lose them.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Plan more time for home improvements and bring more happiness there. Study a plan well before you put it in operation for your success.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Have talks with partners that bring more accord, respect

and benefits today. Handle any communications matters wisely and quickly.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are able to add appreciably to present income if you take advantage of opportunities as they present themselves to you at this time.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Don't waste time on a project that doesn't have the approval of higher-ups. Be careful not to embarrass an associate or you may regret the situation.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Meet problems as they arise and stop worrying needlessly. You have the support of friends and kin in any situation which is troubling you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Good friends will help you to gain a desired wish, even if they are temperamental. Entertain them later, but spend within your means.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have a lot of enthusiasm now and you are able to accomplish much. Be sure to handle all credit affairs wisely and you will have the best of all things.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) New situations arise that could help you advance since you understand them well. You learn a good deal you had not known before this time.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MARCH 11, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The New Moon in Pisces trines Jupiter and conjuncts the Sun making it a time to apply current and up-to-date methods to whatever you have in mind and get excellent results. Rely on your own judgement.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Handle money matters wisely and they are soon behind you. Come to a better understanding with a loved one. Talk less and listen more what is said.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Situations arise so that you know what your exact position is with partners, so try to please them more. You can take it in stride.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan some time for improving relations with fellow associates and all works more efficiently. Moderation is the keynote now.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Relieve worry and tension now with some outdoor recreations. Be with the right kind of friends. Have greater rapport with kin.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Investigate a new enterprise that could be fine for you. Expansion should be uppermost in your mind in both your business and personal life.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Go to the right source for the data you need in order to

improve routines. Regular partners could give you fine suggestions, so follow them.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You find the right ways for adding to your abundance and you should follow through on your ideas. Take care of minor household repairs.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are capable of gaining personal aims now, so go after them intelligently. Avoid one who may have ulterior motives which could be harmful to you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You will get better results if you are more sensitive about a plan you have in mind for making more money. The future looks brighter to you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get your friends to cooperate with you and gain some cherished aims easily. Meet new personalities at evening parties. Dress in style.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can make big progress in career, credit and civic affairs now. Gain the support of an expert. Follow intuitions for best results.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get out of the doldrums you are in by being more active. A new friend can be relied upon for help now. Avoid one with a jealous streak.

THE Daily Crossword

by Janet R. Bender

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U.S. reports progress towards Muslim-Croat peace in Bosnia

ZAGREB (R) — The United States said Wednesday "enormous progress" had been made in negotiations to establish a Bosnian federation of Muslims and Croats linked to Croatia.

Peace efforts for Bosnia moved into high gear after U.S. peace brokers, building on a preliminary Croat-Muslim peace pact reached in Washington 10 days ago, told Bosnian Serbs to join their rivals or sink into "the black hole in Europe."

"To my mind, we have made an enormous amount of progress," U.S. special envoy Charles Redman said in Zagreb. He had talks with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman Tuesday.

Mr. Redman said negotiations in Vienna to implement the agreement, focusing on the constitution and boundaries of ethnically-defined cantons within the federation, were going well with no serious hitches expected.

Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Grancic, who also met Mr. Redman, said the talks could be wrapped up by the end of the week.

"Things are moving so fast that you cannot take a snapshot at any moment and get a full read on the progress so far," a U.S. diplomat told

Reuters Wednesday.

Mr. Redman cautioned that the agreement could not bring full-fledged peace in Bosnia without the participation of the Bosnian Serbs, now holding 70 per cent of the republic.

He met Bosnian Serb officials and their patron, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, in Belgrade earlier Tuesday for what he described as "preliminary talks" to draw Bosnia's most powerful faction into the new federation.

But while Balkan diplomacy made big strides, a Spanish plane in a NATO task force enforcing a U.N. no-fly zone over Bosnia was hit by ground fire over Croatia. Four passengers were slightly injured.

A NATO spokesman said the plane had to make an emergency landing at Rijeka Airport on Croatia's northern Adriatic coast.

The Croatian government said the plane was struck by one of two small anti-aircraft rockets fired from the Krajina enclave occupied by separatist Serbs.

The enclave skirts the government-controlled coast. Hours after the midday incident, Krajina Serbs shelled the town of Gopoc in the government side of a U.N. ceasefire line for three hours, but no one was injured, Croatian Radio said.

But Serb guns opened up again early Wednesday, targeting Otopac north of Gopoc, the radio said. It gave no details of damage or casualties.

In Belgrade, Mr. Redman tried to draw Serb leaders into a U.S.-brokered accord that provides for Croats and Muslims to form a binational entity of semi-autonomous cantons in Bosnia and then join them to Croatia in a loose confederation.

The Croat-Muslim agreement, signed in Washington a week ago, marked Washington's direct entry into the search for peace in Bosnia after months of keeping to the diplomatic sidelines.

Mr. Redman described the U.S.-sponsored Muslim-Croat accord as the first phase in efforts for an overall settlement. Drawing the Serbs into the process was the second stage.

After meeting Nikola Koljevic, a senior aide of Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, Mr. Redman declared: "We are agreed that we are all going to stay very heavily involved, very active in this process."

Mr. Koljevic held out scant prospect of the Serbs joining the confederation — they have vowed never again to live together with Muslims.

Most of Bosnia's front lines were reported calm Wednesday as ceasefires held between Serbs and Muslims in Sarajevo and between Muslims and Croats elsewhere.

The French Foreign Ministry said Wednesday, France is to send an additional 800 soldiers to reinforce U.N. peacekeeping forces temporarily in Sarajevo but will not increase its permanent troop presence in former Yugoslavia.

"Given the urgency of contributing to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 900, France has decided to send rapidly a reinforcement battalion to Sarajevo," ministry spokesman Richard Daque told reporters.

The short-term move was intended to help the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) bridge a redeployment of peacekeepers from Croatia to Bosnia to consolidate a fragile ceasefire following NATO's ultimatum to the Bosnian Serbs to withdraw or hand over their heavy artillery around Sarajevo.

In Moscow, a top Russian official indicated Wednesday that the Russian government is withholding full endorsement of a plan to form a Bosnian Federation of Muslims and Croats linked to Croatia.



Police remove mud in the rear garden at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester. British police found what appeared to be the remains of a ninth body in the basement of what has become known as the "house of horror" (AFP photo)

U.K. police exhume 9th body in 'house of horror'

GLOUCESTER, England (R) — Police digging inside Britain's "house of horror" said Wednesday they had discovered a ninth body in an apparent serial killing.

They said they were still searching after locating the body in the cellar of a terrace house belonging to builder Frederick West, who has been charged with three murders, including that of his 16-year-old daughter Heather.

Mr. West, who has been married twice and had 10 children, appeared in court Monday and was remanded in custody to appear again Friday.

A police official told a news conference that police now plan to use radar scanning equipment on a nearby field in the next few days as part of the inquiry.

"We would stress that we have no forensic evidence to indicate cause of death at this time," the official said in a response to reports speculating the victims were strangled.

He added police had not been in contact so far with foreign police forces after other reports said victims could include a Dutch or German woman.

The eighth corpse, entombed six feet (nearly two metres) under the bathroom floor of the house was exhumed Tuesday.

More bodies are expected, with some police saying the toll may reach double figures and could prove to be the country's worst serial murder case. The Daily Mail reported Wednesday that a Dutch and a German girl could be among the victims.

2 Koreas fail again to agree in nuclear talks

SEOUL (R) — North and South Korea failed to narrow their differences in talks Wednesday as part of an international drive to end the North's suspected nuclear programme, but agreed to try again Saturday.

Delegates from the two sides, meeting for the second time since Pyongyang agreed late last month to allow U.N. inspectors to check seven declared nuclear sites, were commissioned to arrange a proposed exchange of special envoys, which Seoul hopes will ease tension in the Korean peninsula.

The talks were deadlocked over Northern demands South Korea scrap war games with U.S. forces and stop trying to resolve the nuclear issue in concert with its Western allies.

The North also demanded the South abandon plans to deploy Patriot missiles and that President Kim Young-Sam retract a statement accusing North Korea of developing nuclear arms.

"It was regretful that North Korea persisted talking about issues unrelated to the meeting and stayed away from the discussion of exchanging special envoys," South Korean delegate Song Young-Dae told reporters after the talks.

The two-and-a-quarter-hour session took place at the hamlet of Panmunjom, a cluster of official buildings straddling the heavily-fortified demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas.

But Mr. Song said Wednesday's talks had made some progress as North Korea proposed a draft accord on the exchange.

The North's draft called on the two sides to exchange envoys within 15 days after an agreement was signed. It also said Seoul should send its envoy to North Korea first.

Washington and Seoul say suspension of Team Spirit joint war games, scheduled for later this month, and a high-level U.S.-North Korean meeting on March 21 in Geneva are conditional on the envoy exchange.

Pyeongyang, which wants to improve ties with the United States, insists it agreed with Washington only to begin, and not conclude, talks on an exchange before the Geneva meeting and accused Seoul of insincerity.

North Korea's official Korea Central News Agency (KCNA) said Wednesday South Korea began a week-long military exercise Monday to coincide with the border talks. A South Korean Defence Ministry spokesman said it was a routine exercise by an army division.

South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sang-Joo said Tuesday the United States would not resume high-level talks with North Korea unless Pyongyang implemented the envoy exchange.

North Korea has warned that insistence on this point could risk wrecking international inspections of Northern sites where the West suspects Pyongyang is developing nuclear arms.

Last week, South Korea announced a conditional suspension of the Team Spirit military exercises this year to help persuade the North to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect its nuclear facilities.

Seoul's condition to cancel the war game was that IAEA experts successfully complete their checks in addition to the exchange of envoys.

IAEA inspectors are in North Korea but there has been no word of their progress. Influential Korea expert William J. Taylor Jr. urged Washington, Seoul and their allies to pursue every possible avenue for negotiation with the North.

Mr. Taylor, senior vice-president of the Washington-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies, said diplomacy was the only real option to resolve the dispute.

"The present policy of the South Korean government and the United States is the best policy to pursue — diplomacy, diplomacy, diplomacy," he told a news conference in Seoul.

If the issue ever went to the United Nations for sanctions against North Korea, the allies would have to be prepared to make a rapid military build-up, particularly in ballistic missiles and air defences, because Pyongyang would likely go to war, he said.

New Inquest on Hendrix's death ruled out

LONDON (AP) — The attorney general Tuesday ruled out a new inquest into the death of Jimi Hendrix, the rock guitarist who died in 1970. Kathy Etchingham, Hendrix's former girlfriend, had been campaigning for a new inquest. She claims Hendrix died earlier, than officially recorded. "The death was all very dodgy. I don't think it should have happened. He was in the wrong place at the wrong time. He was with the wrong people," said Ms. Etchingham. In December, Scotland Yard announced it had reopened the investigation of Hendrix's death. But the attorney general, Sir Nicholas Lyell, "has concluded in the light of all the evidence that this is not an appropriate case for the granting of consent" for a new inquest, his office said. Hendrix died in London on Sept. 18, 1970, after leaving the message "I need help bad, man," on his manager Chas Chandler's answering machine. He was 27. The original inquest recorded an open verdict, meaning there was insufficient evidence to determine the cause of death. A pathologist concluded that Hendrix choked to death after drinking and taking an overdose of barbiturates. Hendrix apparently took the fatal dose of pills at the apartment of his girlfriend, former skating champion Monika Danneman, and was pronounced dead at a local hospital. Miss Danneman said she was pleased there would not be another inquest, but was disappointed that Sir Nicholas had not said more about his decision. "I always knew this would be the case because what I said 24 years ago was what happened," she said.

Actor's mom was really his grandma

NEW YORK (R) — Actor Jack Nicholson did not learn until he was 37 the woman he thought was his mother was really his grandmother, and the woman he thought was his sister was really his mother. Vanity Fair magazine said. The magazine said Nicholson only found out who his mother was when a man wrote him and claimed to have fathered him with June Nicholson, the woman he was raised to think was his older sister. Vanity Fair said the 56-year-old Academy Award winner was not disturbed by the revelation at all. Telling the magazine, "how can I be upset by something that worked?"

Blaze destroys oldest Bentley

SOLIHULL, England (R) — Fire destroyed the oldest Bentley car in the world Monday and fans of the luxury marque said the £1 million (\$1.49 million) vehicle was irreplaceable. The car, built in September 1921, was powered by an engine from the first production Bentley ever made in 1919 and its chassis was taken from the fifth. The vehicle owned by airman businessman, was destroyed in a fire at an engineering firm in Solihull in central England where it was being restored with six other vintage Bentleys. "This is a terrible day for Bentley owners at all. Telling the magazine, "how can I be upset by something that worked?"

Argentine Jews disappointed by Menem

BUENOS AIRES (R) — President Carlos Menem disappointed his country's Jewish community by failing to appear for the Argentine opening of the Steven Spielberg Holocaust epic Schindler's List. Jewish leaders said Wednesday. "Of course we were expecting him to come," Chief Rabbi Salomon Benhamon told reporters after the screening. "Obviously he had other commitments or something. I couldn't say," said Rabbi Benhamon, who was recently the victim of an anti-semitic attack. The screening was dedicated to Oskar Schindler, the movie's hero, and his widow Emilie, 86, who after World War II she was a movie house in central Buenos Aires, attended by U.S. Ambassador James C. Cheek, the Papal nuncio and other foreign envoys, including those of Poland, Israel, Russia,

South Africa rightists may bite election bullet

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Black and white rightists prepared to bite the bullet and decide whether to take a key step to participate in South Africa's all-race elections.

Right-wing sources said General Constand Viljoen, leader of the autonomy-seeking Afrikaner People's Front (APF), was ready to submit a list of election candidates, but first wanted to see whether his allies in the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party submitted their list.

The Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) had set a 4:30 p.m. (1430 GMT) deadline for registered parties to submit provisional lists of candidates for the April 26-28 elections, which many right-wingers are threatening to boycott.

Gen. Viljoen said on the telephone Wednesday no decision had yet been taken and if one was made to submit a list, he would not personally present it to the IEC.

Inkatha said it was preparing a tentative list and a decision on whether to submit it would be made at a special sitting of the party's Central Committee in the KwaZulu capital Umtata.

Asked whether the list would be submitted to the IEC before the deadline, Inkatha spokesman Ed Tillet said: "I can't say. There is a possibility."

A senior white conservative, who refused to be identified said IEC head Judge Johann Krieger had called the right-wing bluff by sticking to the 4:30 p.m. deadline.

"Justice Krieger has called the bluff of both Inkatha and the far right," said the conservative, commenting on past successes by rightists in the autonomy-seeking Freedom Alliance in making elastic earlier constitutional deadlines.

The IEC said parties could meet the deadline by registering just one name. They would then have a week to submit full lists.

But even if rightists submit lists, their participation in the election is conditional on the success of foreign mediation to break the constitutional deadlock between the pro-federalists on the one side and the ANC and the government on the other. The form of mediation is still being negotiated.

Rightwingers, demanding a white homeland or Volkstaat, have split into pro- and anti-election camps since Saturday's rejection by the self-proclaimed Afrikaner Assembly of Gen. Viljoen's registration of the Freedom Front.

AVF General Tienie Groenewald said Wednesday the organisation's committee of generals was fully behind Gen. Viljoen.

British minister faces calls for resignation

LONDON (R) — Britain's minister for open government Wednesday vigorously defended telling a parliamentary committee that it was acceptable for ministers to lie to parliament in extreme circumstances.

William Waldegrave, 47, stirred up a political hornet's nest Tuesday with a statement that plunged the battered government of Prime Minister John Major into fresh controversy over the questions of integrity and judgement in politics.

Opposition politicians said Mr. Waldegrave's position was now untenable and called on Mr. Major to distance himself from the remarks and sack the minister.

As the storm grew about his remarks to the Treasury and Civil Service Committee, Mr. Waldegrave told BBC Radio Wednesday "a tremendous bogus story had been invented" by the media and opposition politicians. "This is a completely mad situation," he said of the controversy.

The Sun newspaper said "he should go" while the Times said it hoped his remarks were no more than a foolish slip: "Otherwise they represented a serious assault upon one of the most basic principles of parliamentary democracy."

Mr. Waldegrave said he had been referring in committee to exceptional cases in history when Labour Chancellors of the Exchequer (Finance Ministers) James Callaghan and Sir Stafford Cripps had said things which were wrong to defend the pound.

An aristocrat, with an elite education at Eton School and Oxford University, Mr. Waldegrave told the committee: "In exceptional cases it is necessary to say something that is untrue to the House of Commons. The House of Commons understands that and has always accepted that."

He added: "Much of government activity is much more like playing poker than playing chess. You don't put all your cards up at one time."

S. African train crash toll hits 64

DURBAN, South Africa (R) — An injured victim of South Africa's worst train disaster in nearly three decades died in hospital, raising the death toll to 64, police said Wednesday.

At least 370 people were injured when the Durban-bound electric train packed with black commuters jumped the tracks on a sharp curve Tuesday.

A board of inquiry opened Wednesday. "They are meeting first thing in the morning to start the investigation," said spokesman Mike Asefowitz of the Spoornet Railway Corporation.

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu called for a day of mourning.

"Given all the bloodletting to which the people of Natal have been exposed, we call for a national day of mourning for those who have died, not only in the train disaster, but also in the violence," he said.

About 14,000 people have died since 1990 in political violence and monitoring groups say the toll in Natal province alone was almost 2,000 last year.

Black political organisations, vying for support ahead of South Africa's first all-race elections in April, suggested the tragedy may not have been an accident.

The Inkatha Freedom Party of Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthezi said sabotage could have caused the crash.

Yeltsin snubs Nixon

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin Wednesday refused to see former U.S. President Richard Nixon, who earlier met the Russian leader's opponents.

"Let them know that Russia is a great country and you just cannot play about with her like that," Mr. Yeltsin told reporters, clearly offended by Mr. Nixon's meeting Monday with former Russian Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi.

Mr. Nixon Monday became the first senior public figure to visit Mr. Rutskoi.

Passengers released from hijacked Saudi airliner fly to Ethiopia

NAIROBI (R) — More than 130 passengers from a Saudi airliner hijacked to Nairobi by Ethiopian hijackers left Wednesday for the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, airline officials said.

The passengers, released from the Saudi Airbus hours before troops stormed the plane at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta Airport late Tuesday, flew to Addis Ababa on an African Airlines plane, they added.

"All the passengers have left Kenya," Saudi manager in Nairobi Rafiq Qassem told Reuters. "We are waiting to hear now whether the (Saudi) plane can leave Nairobi later today."

The Airbus with 138 passengers was hijacked on a flight from Jeddah in Saudi Arabia to Addis Ababa by an Ethiopian man and two women among 130 Ethiopians and Somalis being deported from the kingdom.

Crack Kenyan troops shot and wounded one of the hijackers after he was lured out of the plane and stormed aboard and overpowered a female accomplice to end the nearly 20-hour hijacking, freeing the captain and co-pilot unharmed.

A third hijacker left the plane earlier Tuesday disguised as a passenger but was arrested, Kenyan officials said.

The Australian High Commission in Nairobi identified the captain of the hijacked plane as Australian John Webber and said he was resting at a Nairobi hotel Wednesday but seemed fine.

Kenyan officials had said Tuesday all the crew of the Airbus were Saudi nationals.

Mr. Qassem said it was up to Kenyan authorities whether they would be allowed to speak to journalists about the hijacking.

Clinton turns to Cutler in Whitewater mess

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton named attorney Lloyd Cutler, an influential old Washington hand with political savvy, as temporary special White House counsel to help him through the Whitewater mess.

Mr. Clinton also distanced himself from one particularly notorious reminder of the Whitewater scandal, saying it was highly unlikely he would invoke "executive privilege" to shield White House information from investigators, as Richard Nixon tried to do in the scandal that ruined him 20 years ago.

"My interest in here is to get the facts out," Mr. Clinton told a news conference during which he welcomed questions about Whitewater for 45 minutes.

Mr. Clinton introduced Mr. Cutler, 76, White House counsel under President Jimmy Carter and a lawyer who has had Henry Kissinger and George Shultz among his clients, three days after Whitewater controversies forced current Clinton counsel Bernard Nussbaum to resign.

Mr. Clinton said Mr. Cutler was "a firing person" for the job because he is "a man of sense, a man of integrity, a man of professional credentials and the highest ethical standards."

The bespectacled, white-haired Cutler pledged to uphold public trust of the presidency and made clear he would not suffer the same pitfalls as Mr. Nussbaum, insisting his job would be to counsel the president, not Mr. Clinton's personal attorney.

But he said that as a "senior citizen" he could not keep up the White House pace for long and that he would serve on an interim basis of four to six months.

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But he said that as a "senior citizen" he could not keep up the White House pace for long and that he would serve on an interim basis of four to six months.

That meant Mr. Clinton would quickly need to resume his search for a permanent in-house lawyer to keep his White House on an even keel through the rising squalls of the Whitewater affair and any other rough spots in the controversy-prone administration.

In an effort to give a morale boost to the White House staff, Mr. Clinton, wife Hillary and Vice President Al Gore held what officials described as a "pop talk" for staff in the East Room.

"It was an attempt to remind people why we're here. To emphasize that the White House intends to live up to the highest standards of ethics, and that we ought to take this seriously but not let it distract us from the real work," said one official.

Republicans sensing a change in the Democratic president released a list of 40 witnesses they want to question about the Whitewater affair when the House of Representatives Banking Committee holds a hearing this month.

The list, submitted to committee Chairman Henry Gonzalez, a Texas Democrat, included Mr. Nussbaum, White House Chief of Staff Thomas "Mac" McLarty and other Clinton administration officials as well as potential witnesses from Arkansas.

House Speaker Thomas Foley said he agreed with the position of special prosecutor Robert Fiske that there should be no congressional hearings until Mr. Fiske's investigation is over. "I think we should comply with that," he told CNN.

Mr. Fiske said in Little Rock, Arkansas, Tuesday that he was satisfied with White House cooperation so far in turning over information he subpoenaed for his Whitewater investigation.

"So far they have been very responsive," he told reporters. At the White House news conference, Mr. Clinton again asserted he has done nothing wrong in the crisis centred on the 15-year-old Whitewater land deal involving him and his wife, A related Arkansas savings-and-loan institution failure and perceptions the White House may have tried to cover up information.

"I am very relaxed about this," he said. "I did not do anything wrong. There is nothing here. I made an investment and I lost money. Like a lot of other Americans. And that's all there is," he said.

He bridled, as he had at a news conference Monday, at a reporter's suggestion this was becoming like Watergate, the abuse-of-power scandal that drove Mr. Nixon from office in 1974.

He said he had instructed his staff to cooperate fully with Mr. Fiske. And Mr. Cutler said he would advise Mr. Clinton to cooperate in congressional hearings as well if that became necessary.

But the Watergate analogies kept popping up, as when a reporter asked Mr. Clinton if he might assert executive privilege to shield any documents or testimony sought by the Whitewater special counsel.

"Obviously, I have no way of knowing what will come up. But it is hard for me to imagine a case in which I would invoke it," the president replied.

Executive privilege is a hazy concept under which U.S. presidents have asserted a constitutional power to shield themselves. Their papers and sometimes their staff from investigation.

As to the possibility there might be Clinton White House tapes — raised for first time by a reporter at Tuesday's news conference — the president said: "To the best of my knowledge there are not (any tapes). If there are, someone else made them. Not the president."

He also said he did not keep a diary but sometimes made notes of conversations in the margins of documents.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Germany stays on top of World Cup poll

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Germany remained on top of the sprint soccer poll for the 10th consecutive week, organizers of the poll said Tuesday. Germany earned 33 of a possible 37 first-place votes for a total of 359 points in the weekly ranking of the top 10 national teams as voted on by a panel of international soccer journalists. Brazil, which received one first-place vote, followed with 334 points. The Netherlands remained in third place, with 276 points, while Italy, with two first-place votes, held on to fourth with 248 points. Argentina, with one first-place vote, was fifth with 193 points. Rounding out the top 10 were Colombia, 186 points; Spain, 131; Belgium, 92; Norway, 51, and Cameroon, 49. Mexico, with 47 points, just missed a spot in the top 10.

Thieves steal Olympic gold medal

BOLZANO, Italy (R) — Thieves broke into Olympic luge champion Gerda Weissensteiner's house and stole the gold medal she won at the Lillehammer Olympics while she was attending her brother's funeral Tuesday. "Sadly we have to confirm this is true. Thieves broke in and took the medal plus a camera and some cash during the funeral," a police spokesman said. Weissensteiner's joy at winning gold in the women's singles for Italy in Lillehammer last month turned to sorrow at the weekend when her 20-year-old brother Daniel was killed in a motorcycle accident.

Fancied Barton Bank to miss Gold Cup

LONDON (R) — Barton Bank, second favourite for next week's Cheltenham Gold Cup steeplechase, will miss the race. Trainer David Nicholson said Wednesday: "Barton Bank has broken a blood vessel very badly this morning during routine work and will not run in the Gold Cup." Barton Bank scored a thrilling victory in the valuable King George VI chase at Kempton in December and had been a firm Cheltenham fancy at 5-1. Jodami, last year's Gold Cup winner, has hardened in the betting from 11-8 against to 11-10 on. French-trained The Fellow is the new second favourite at 7-1. The Gold Cup is the highlight of the traditional three-day Cheltenham Jump Racing Festival which opens next Tuesday.

Ferrari to return to sports car racing

TOULON, France (R) — Ferrari is to return to international sports car racing, competing in this year's Le Mans 24 hours for the first time since 1973. Among their drivers will be a nephew of King Juan Carlos of Spain. Two factory-prepared Ferrari models, entered by the official Ferrari Club Italia, will first run in the Jarama four-hour race in Spain April 10 before competing at Le Mans and in other European GT series races. One car will be crewed by Italians Gianbattista Bui and Fabio Mancini, the other by Spaniards Tomas Saldaña and Prince Alfonso D'Orleans, nephew of his country's king. News of the Ferrari return emerged at a race meeting in France Monday.

Papin set to return to Marseille

MARSEILLE, France (R) — French and AC Milan striker Jean-Pierre Papin is likely to rejoin European champions Marseille soon, Marseille officials said Wednesday. The officials said Papin, 30, had one year to run on his contract with Milan but had agreed to leave the Italian club early.

GOREN BRIDGE

PICK THE RIGHT SUIT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 9 7
♥ Q J 5
♦ 3 2
♣ A J 10 9 5

EAST
♠ K 10 8 4 3
♥ J 6 5
♦ A 7 3
♣ K 8 4

SOUTH
♠ A Q 2
♥ K 10 6 4
♦ A J 10
♣ Q 8 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Four of ♠

When you have to develop tricks, logic tells you that you should first tackle the suit which will yield the most. If you've been playing the game for any length of time, however, experience will have taught you that other factors have to be considered.

With eight points and a good five-card minor, there's a lot to be said for a jump to three no trump with the North hand. Instead, North set-

Pippen scores 39 points, helps Bulls beat Hawks

CHICAGO (R) — Scottie Pippen collected 39 points, 10 assists and nine steals as the Chicago Bulls ended an eight-game losing streak with a 97-89 victory over the Phoenix Suns.

Mourning, who had been out with a leg injury, scored eight points in the fourth quarter to help the Hornets rally to the win.

At Utah, Karl Malone scored 30 points and pulled down 11 rebounds as the Utah Jazz downed the Minnesota Timberwolves 100-86 to tie a club record with their 10th straight victory.

Jay Humphries added 16 points and Tom Chambers had 15 for the Jazz, who are 12-0 lifetime at home against Minnesota and 20-5 overall against the Timberwolves.

Chris Smith scored 21 for the Timberwolves.

In Orlando, Shaquille O'Neal scored 29 points and grabbed 16 rebounds to lift the Orlando Magic to a 95-88 victory over the Denver Nuggets.

Denver led 84-83 with 3:30 left but Orlando's Anfernee Hardaway scored a three-point play to put the Magic ahead to stay.

After an O'Neal layup, Hardaway hit a jumper and Larry Krystkowiak scored from inside to complete a 9-0

run and give Orlando a 92-84 advantage with 1:41 remaining.

Dennis Scott had 17 points and seven rebounds for Orlando.

In Dallas, Dominique Wilkins hit two free throws with just under two minutes left to snap a 102-102 tie and lift the Los Angeles Clippers to a 116-110 triumph over the Dallas Mavericks.

Ron Harper had 36 points and Wilkins added 34 for the Clippers, who won for only the eighth time in 29 road games this season.

Jim Jackson had 31 points for the Mavericks.

In San Antonio, J.R. Reid scored 16 of his season-high 24 points in the first half and David Robinson added 21 points, 12 rebounds and five blocks to power the San Antonio Spurs to a 115-99 rout over the Houston Rockets.

The Spurs have won three straight and 17 of their last 20.

In Seattle, Shawn Kemp had 24 points and 14 rebounds and Kendall Gill had 23 points and 10 assists to lead the Seattle SuperSonics to their sixth straight win with a 113-98 rout of the Golden State Warriors.

Brazilian coach rules out 3rd forward

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Unmoved by fans' pleas to give his team some scoring punch, coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said the Brazilian team will not add a third forward to its starting lineup in this summer's World Cup tournament.

"I hope fans will understand, because I'm only taking four (forwards) to the United States: two starters and two reserves," newspapers.

Although he has not said so officially, the four are almost sure to be Bebeto, Romario, Muller and Edmundo. Parreira has regularly named them to the team for tournaments and exhibition games.

"We're in a phase of definition. We can't do tests any more," the coach said.

But that's hardly likely to silence his critics — among them soccer legend Pele — who say the current lineup with four midfielders and two forwards is excessively timid and lacks the firepower Brazil needs to win a fourth world title.

Pele, for example, emphasized that when Brazil won the World Cup in 1958, 1962 and 1970, the team had three attackers or more. Of course, he was one of them.

The debate over how many attackers is enough has divided Brazilian fans.

Many feel the current group of players is so talented that the team should have five forwards: Bebeto, Romario, Muller, Edmundo and Dener.

FOR RENT

Nice small furnished apartment, consisting of one bedroom, small salon, sitting room with kitchen, separate entrance with small garden. Five minutes from Safeway. Tariq Area.
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Madrid to have new coach in few weeks

MADRID (R) — Real Madrid, who sacked coach Benito Floro Monday, will have a new manager within a few weeks so that he can be involved in reshaping the team for next season, club Chairman Ramon Mendoza has said.

"The naming of Vicente Del Bosque as coach is provisional, until the end of the league season. I am confident that within a few weeks we will have signed the coach who will manage the team next season," Mendoza told reporters after a visit to the club training ground to talk to players.

"We have got to strengthen the squad and the ideal thing would be that the new coach should handle the signings so that he does not find himself managing a team he has not helped to structure," he said.

The Madrid board decided unanimously Monday to sack Floro, who joined the club at the start of the 1992-93 season, after the team had suffered a shock defeat by first division strugglers Lerida Sunday.

His demise was the climax of a stormy season for Spain's most famous club. They have staggered from crisis to crisis while still managing to cling to third place in the league.

Floro's job had looked at risk several times during the season and a home defeat to Paris Saint Germain in the European Cup Winners' Cup

last Thursday followed by the 2-1 loss in Lerida were the final nails in his coffin.

Del Bosque is a former player and long-time member of the club's technical staff. He supervised his first training session Tuesday.

Mendoza refused to be drawn on who the long-term replacement would be but said contacts had begun. He said the man chosen must "speak Spanish, know Spanish football, know the club and be a name."

Names mentioned in the sports press over the season include Francisco Maturana, formerly with Real Valladolid and now Colombian national coach, Arnur Jorge of Paris Saint Germain, Argentine Jorge Valdano, a former Madrid player who is now coach of Tenerife, and German Jupp Heynckes, coach of Athletic Bilbao.

Floro, who came to Madrid after lifting Albacete from the third division to the first in four seasons, was warmly applauded by a large crowd of fans at the training ground when he said goodbye to the team.

Madrid players reacted with surprise to Floro's departure.

Captain Manuel Sanchis said the team had not expected it so late in the season despite almost weekly speculation in the media.

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A taxpayer service specialist from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service will be at the American Embassy in Amman on March 30 to April 7 to assist U.S. taxpayers.

A special tax seminar will be conducted on Thursday March 31, and Sunday April 3, at 8:30 a.m. in the United States Information Service auditorium at the embassy. Anyone who is interested will be welcome to attend. No reservation is necessary.

Individual assistance will be provided by appointment on April 4 to 6. Each taxpayer is advised to have a copy of his or her last filed return and to have all papers well organized and scheduled to the extent possible when appearing for an appointment. Appointments may be made by calling 820-101, extension 2062.

Income tax forms and information booklets are now available in the consular section of the embassy.

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Jean-Claude Van Damme HARD TARGET Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		Amr Diyab, Yusra & Omar Sherif in Laughter, Playing, Seriousness and Love Arabic Shows: 12:30, 3, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD '1' Sylvester Stallone — in Demolition Man Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' Walter Matthau — in Dennis the Menace Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		Opening Soon A political comedy Forbidden X Forbidden		presents a play entitled: Al Ilm Nuron A popular political comedy Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalajel, Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali in addition to other comedians Every night at 8:15 Tickets are sold all day Coming soon: The next play		Nabil and Hisham Theatre presents Ahlan Arab Summit Conference (play) daily at 9:15 p.m. Theatre is closed Sundays, Monday and Tuesdays	

UNHRC assails Iran, Iraq, Cuba and anti-Semitism

GENEVA (Agencies) — The U.N. Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) on Wednesday criticised violations in Iran, Iraq, Cuba and former Yugoslavia and condemned anti-Semitism for the first time in the history of the United Nations.

China escaped criticism for the fourth straight year despite its continued suppression of the pro-democracy movement and a recent upsurge in arrests of dissidents.

And an attempt by Pakistan to bring the situation in the disputed Indian province of Kashmir under international scrutiny failed because of lack of support even from fellow Islamic states.

Pakistan's draft was the most contentious of all the resolutions at the annual six-week session. It was introduced by a fierce attack on India by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on a visit to Geneva last month.

A Pakistani delegate to the commission told the meeting that India, which signed a wide-ranging trade agreement with India earlier this week, had made a high-level appeal to the Pakistani government that the resolution should be dropped.

An appeal by Iranian Ambassador Sorous Nasser to the commission, delegates burst into applause when the Pakistani delegate announced his country "had decided not to ask for action," on the resolution.

In Islamabad, Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali told local reporters that Pakistan found it "difficult to ignore"

China's and Iran's appeal. The resolution would have condemned "gross and consistent violations of the human rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

Iran's Nasser cited "the readiness of the government of India to facilitate a visit by a group of ambassadors from Muslim countries to Jammu and Kashmir."

The outcome was a diplomatic triumph for India and a blow for Ms. Bhutto, who had compared the situation in Kashmir to the "darkest days of the Holocaust."

The 53-nation commission asked a special U.N. investigator to examine "contemporary forms of racism, any form of discrimination against blacks, Arabs and Muslims, racial discrimination, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and related intolerance."

Its decision — which was passed by consensus — followed extraordinary behind-the-scenes wrangling in a body which traditionally occupies a large part of its annual session to criticising Israel.

Syria blocked earlier U.S. attempts to highlight anti-Semitism. The resolution, drafted by Turkey, only got through because it was broadened to include other racial and religious groups. In practice, the all-embracing wording will now make the job of the special investigator even more difficult.

Even so, the resolution was welcomed by Jewish groups.

"This is the final blow against Adolf Hitler by the United Nations," said World Jewish Congress representative Morris B. Abram, former

U.S. ambassador to the U.N. offices in Geneva and a long-time campaigner against anti-Semitism.

Israel hailed the move as "a major landmark in the history of this commission," and the United States said the inclusion of the anti-Semitism word would make a "difference to the lives of millions of people around the world."

The commission voted by 34-1 votes to renew the investigation into Iraq by former Dutch Foreign Minister Max van der Stoep. Sudan voted against and there were 18 abstentions.

It condemned the "massive violations of human rights, of the gravest nature, for which the government of Iraq is responsible, resulting in an all pervasive order of repression and oppression which is sustained by broad-based discrimination and widespread terror."

The commission voted by 22-11 votes on a Western-backed proposal to continue scrutiny of Iran. There were 19 abstentions.

In a report to the commission, U.N. investigator Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, said the pattern of executions, torture and repression in the Islamic republic continued unabated.

Russia and other former communist allies joined the West in voting to renew criticism of Cuba for its suppression of political and civil liberties. The resolution passed by 24-9 votes, with 20 abstentions.

Cuba's representative Jose Pertez Novoa immediately said it would disregard the resolution.



DEFIANCE: Palestinian children continue throwing stones as an Israeli soldier takes aim at them in the Jabalya refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Rabbani loyalists claim control of northern town

KABUL (AP) — President Burhanuddin Rabbani's army said Wednesday it recaptured the northern provincial capital of Kunduz in a fierce two-day battle involving thousands of troops.

Mr. Rabbani's forces control most of Kunduz, the main battleground in a brutal civil war that involves about 10 separate factions. They also are battling the same groups in key provincial centres such as Kunduz, 250 kilometres to the north.

Mr. Rabbani's head of national security, Fahim, told a news conference that the president's men retook Kunduz late Tuesday after ousting soldiers loyal to warlord Rashid Dostum.

The claim could not be independently verified, though several sources have reported heavy fighting in Kunduz. "Psychologically our victory in Kunduz is important," said Mr. Fahim, who like many Afghans uses only one name.

"It has improved morale."

Both the president and General Dostum have strongholds in northern Afghanistan, and both sides covet Kunduz as a base for launching attacks on each other.

Gen. Dostum's men attacked civilians and looted Kunduz when they captured it recently, Mr. Fahim claimed. The president's forces regrouped and retook the town in a four-pronged attack involving thousands of men, he said. He did not provide any casualty figures.

Meanwhile, Kabul was relatively calm Wednesday after coming under a heavy artillery attack the previous two days that killed at least 18 and wounded more than 100.

Gen. Dostum and his ally, Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, are encamped on the city's outskirts and have been pounding the city with rockets since they launched their assault Jan. 1.

2 indicted in attack on Brooklyn Bridge

NEW YORK (AP) — A Lebanese-born cab driver accused of killing a Jewish student in a hail of bullets on the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City has been indicted in the shooting.

Assistant District Attorney Armand Durastanti said a Manhattan grand jury had indicted Rashid Baz, 28. But he did not divulge the charges in the indictment because, he said, he was not ready to file the document with the court.

One of Mr. Baz's codefendants, Bassam Mousa Reyati, 27, a native of Jordan, was also indicted in connection with the shooting. Assistant District Attorney William Mahoney said.

The grand jury has not yet acted on the case of the third defendant, Hani Mohammad, 32, also of Jordan. Mr. Durastanti told Manhattan Criminal Court Judge Michael Gross.

Mr. Mohammad and Mr. Reyati were charged with hindering prosecution for allegedly helping Mr. Baz hide

his car, his weapons and himself after the March 1 assault on the students' van.

In the fusillade of gunfire from automatic weapons, Aaron Halberstam, 16, received a fatal head wound, and Nuchum Sasonkin, 17, was critically wounded. One other was shot less seriously and another was hurt by splintered glass.

In a felony complaint, Mr. Baz was charged with 15 counts of attempted murder — one for each student in the van — but because Mr. Halberstam later died, the grand jury will likely vote to include one count of murder.

Mr. Gross scheduled a hearing for the three in state supreme court on March 29 when they are to be arraigned.

Mr. Baz's lawyer, S. Michael Musa-Oregon, complained to the court that he has not received Mr. Baz's allegedly incriminating videotaped statements to police, although the contents have leaked to the news media.

Mubarak, Saleh discuss Yemen's political crisis

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak met Wednesday with visiting Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh to discuss his country's political crisis and Egyptian efforts to resolve it.

The state-owned Middle East News Agency (MENA) said the two discussed the "possibilities of bridging the gaps in points of views between the two parts of Yemen and ending present disputes among conflicting parties."

A war of words between Mr. Saleh, a northerner, and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh, a southerner, and reported clashes between their troops have raised concerns that the 1990 unification of the conservative North Yemen and Marxist South Yemen is in jeopardy.

A reconciliation pact signed by Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh in Amman last month has not eased the tension, with clashes reported on the very day of the signing ceremony.

There are fears fighting could flare with the end of the Holy Month of Ramadan. Egypt has traditionally maintained good relations with both sides. Egyptian forces played a direct role from 1962 to 1967 in overthrowing North Yemen's monarchy and establishing a republic.

Mr. Mubarak received Saleh at the airport, then the two went to the presidential palace where talks started over the traditional sunset meal breaking the day's fast.

The Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) of Vice-President Beidh said Tuesday seven people, including two of its members, had been killed in the north by "hired killers."

The southern-based party said the killers were being

"used by some influential elements," an apparent reference to its northern rivals although it did not name any party.

Several thousand Yemenis took to the streets in the capital, Sanaa, on Tuesday in support for unity and denouncing any calls for separation, witnesses said.

The marchers, including women and children, called on the Republican Palace urging an end to the crisis.

The YSP said in statements the first killings took place on Thursday at Yarim in the northern province of Ebb where YSP member Abdullah Mohammad Alru'ini was shot dead in the general market of the town.

Five other shoppers were killed, the YSP said.

The party said another member, Abdul Karim Saleh Elwan, was killed the same day in the Seddah area, also in Ebb.

It added: "The killers are still at large like previous killers who assassinated hundreds of our party members."

Their differences have paralysed the government, threatened the unity and sparked armed clashes.

An Arab League delegation left Sanaa on Tuesday after talks on possible league help to defuse the military situation, political sources said.

One of the main topics discussed was the possibility of forming an Arab League force to separate southern and northern forces, the sources said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Saleh on Tuesday ordered the release of 1,400 prisoners who had done more than half of their sentences. The releases were ordered on the occasion of next week's 'Eid Al Fir.

Bomb defused at French centre outside Beirut

JOUNIEH, Lebanon (AP) — A booby-trapped parcel was safely defused Wednesday outside the French Cultural Centre, averting another joint to government efforts to restore law and order after 15 years of civil war.

Chantal Mansour, the centre's director, grew suspicious when she arrived at work at 7:30 a.m. (0530 GMT) to find a neatly wrapped parcel placed at the doorstep of the two-storey centre in Jounieh, a Christian port city north of Beirut.

"She stepped over the box, went to the neighbour, who is a soldier, and they telephoned the army," said Jean Khoury, Mrs. Mansour's Lebanese aide.

A military sapper, identified only as Chief Warrant Officer Mohammad, was dispatched to the centre to examine the parcel, wrapped in a red paper and ribbon.

With a knife, he sliced the top open to find a six kilogramme bomb connected to a detonator, which he unplugged. The bomb was set to explode on percussion.

"If the box was held and wrapping removed it would have exploded," Ms. Khoury quoted the sapper as saying.

Most of the centre's employees were off Wednesday as Lebanon marked teacher's day.

Four French nationals, including Mrs. Mansour, and eight Lebanese teach French language at the centre, located since 1982 in Jounieh's hilly northeastern Ghadir neighbourhood.

It was not clear who was behind the attempted bombing

and no responsibility claim was made. Witnesses at the scene said two people were taken by troops for questioning.

French interests in Lebanon, which was under French mandate until independence in 1943, were targeted during the 1975-1990 civil war.

Many French nationals were kidnapped and the embassy and the headquarters of French paratroopers in Beirut were bombed as anti-Western sentiments spread in the 1980s.

Also, French ambassador Louis Delamare was assassinated in Beirut in 1982.

But there have been no major attacks against Western interests since the end of the civil war.

Authorities have been exhorting citizens to watch out for suspicious objects since the Feb. 27 bombing of a Maronite Catholic church in the Zouk Mikhael district of Jounieh.

Police disclosed Wednesday that the death toll in that explosion, which occurred during the weekend sacrament, had risen to 10 after one of the wounded died in hospital Tuesday.

The man was identified as Abboud Khalil. He had suffered head and chest wounds in the blast at Notre Dame de la Délivrance. About 60 others were wounded.

The bombing, a month after the assassination in Beirut of a senior Jordanian diplomat, marked a severe blow to government efforts to clean up the terrorist image Lebanon acquired during the civil war.

Nayeb Imran Maaytah, the Jordanian embassy's first secretary, was gunned outside his residence.

German kills six, self in courtroom

EUSKIRCHEN, Germany (Agencies) — A man convicted of beating his girlfriend fatally shot the judge and set off a bomb Wednesday that killed his mother and the girlfriend and hurled him through the courtroom window.

A total of seven people, including the bomber, were killed in the bloodbath, and at least six injured, two critically, said Prosecutor Joerg Pietrusky.

The massacre took place in an unguarded, three-storey brick misdemeanor court in Euskirchen, a town of 50,000 people about 25 kilometres west of Bonn.

The 39-year-old bomber had been convicted last year of beating his girlfriend and sentenced to pay court fees of 7,200 marks (\$3,900).

After losing an appeal Wednesday, he left the courtroom with his girlfriend and came back shooting as she screamed a warning, Mr. Pietrusky said.

German radio said the man staged the attack after the court rejected his appeal against a fine of 80 marks (\$37) he had received for assaulting a woman. There was no immediate explanation to the discrepancy to the amount of fine.

The presiding judge, who reached for a telephone to

alert security guards, fell in a hail of bullets.

The man shot the judge and a witness, police said, then left the courtroom again, returned with a knapsack and took out a bomb. The explosion blew the killer through the window and into the street.

"He didn't say a word," said Mr. Pietrusky.

Early reports said the man was a Yugoslav, but Mr. Pietrusky said at a news conference that he believed the man was German and lived in Euskirchen. His name was not released.

The blast blew out the windows on the ground floor of the courtroom and sucked masonry and walls.

The dead bomber's body was covered in a white sheet. The street was littered with bloody law books, broken glass and furniture.

Among those killed were the judge, the killer's girlfriend and mother and two attorneys, said Michael Hermans, an attorney in the prosecutor's office. The prosecutor and at least one witness was among those injured.

After the bombing, the street in front of the courtroom was full of injured people being loaded into ambulances and helicopters, witnesses said.

Gamaa 'suspends' attacks

CAIRO (AP) — The radical (Islamic Group) has announced that it is suspending attacks in Cairo through the weekend feast that ends the Holy month of Ramadan. The Arabic daily Al-Hayat reported Wednesday.

The announcement from the group also claimed responsibility for Monday's attack on three passenger trains in Assiut province in southern Egypt.

Twelve Egyptian travellers were wounded when the trains' coaches were raked by gunfire some 320 kilometres south of Cairo.

A second statement, faxed to a Western news agency in Cairo, claimed responsibility for attacks that took the lives of Egyptian policemen Monday and Tuesday.

Both statements said the attacks were to avenge the Hebron massacre.

The group said the suspension of activities in Cairo through next Monday was related to "internal matters," which it did not disclose.

The Islamic Group has angered many Muslims here with attacks that have taken Egyptian lives and hurt their livelihoods. Incidents during the holiday period could further undercut public support.

Prominent Palestinians urge Arafat to quit talks

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A significant number of members of the Palestine National Council (PNC) and Palestine Central Council (PCC) and independent Palestinians as well as leaders of hardline Palestinian factions Wednesday called on Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat not to return to the suspended peace talks with Israel until the Jewish state complies with a set of basic demands.

It was the strongest yet call on the PLO chairman to quit the 28-month-old peace talks in the wake of the Feb. 25 massacre of Palestinian worshippers by a Jewish settler at a Hebron mosque and seek fundamental changes to the format of the negotiations, which he suspended after the massacre.

The memorandum added to the growing pressure on Mr. Arafat not to return to the talks. Reports from Tunis, where the PLO is headquartered, said senior PLO officials and Arafat confidants were also calling on Mr. Arafat not to relent on his demands for international protection for the Palestinians in the occupied

territories and the inclusion of the status of the Jewish settlements there as a topic for negotiations related to the Sept. 13 autonomy agreement — an idea that Israel has rejected.

A memorandum, signed by 130 PNC and PCC members, including six members of the PLO Executive Committee, and 115 Palestinian businessmen, professors, unionists, journalists and academics, demanded that Israel suspend all settlement activities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as Jerusalem, dismantle existing settlements and remove all settlers from the occupied territories.

It demanded that international protection be offered to the two million Palestinians living under Israeli occupation and a United Nations force take control over the occupied territories until the Palestinians assume responsibility for the territories.

The memorandum denounced the killings at the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron as "a brutal, premeditated massacre," and held Israel solely responsible for the attack as well as the violence that followed, "killing tens of martyrs and wounding hundreds...."

"We condemn the American

policy that encouraged Israeli intransigence and aggression and helped cover up the direct responsibility of the Israeli occupation authorities in the massacre," said the signatories, who included PLO Executive Committee members Tayseer Khaled, Abu Ali Mustafa, Abdullah Hourani, Abdul Rahim Mallouh, Shafiq Al Hout and Mohammad Ismail, who have either resigned from the panel or frozen their membership.

"We demand that the ongoing negotiations with the Israeli enemy, the bilateral and multilateral and all secret and public (talks) be stopped until the international community, especially the Security Council, responds to us and Israel adheres to our just demands," said the memo, also signed by prominent PNC and PCC members such as Ibrahim Bakr, Hani Hourani and Sajj Salameh as well as Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) leader George Habash and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) head Nayef Hawatmeh.

The PFLP and DFLP are not opposed to negotiated solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, but they object to the present conditions of the peace negotiations which they say are stacked against Palestinian aspirations and objectives and would not lead to the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

The memorandum set the following conditions for the resumption of peace talks:

— "The elimination of all settlements and settlement activities in accordance with U.N. resolutions, specifically Resolution 464 of 1980, which considers settlements as illegal, and the evacuation of all settlers from all occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem."

— "Providing of international protection for the Palestinian people under occupation and applying the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and forming a U.N. force to temporarily provide security there until the Palestinian people and its national authority assume responsibility there."

— "Negotiations with the Israeli enemy be based on the commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy and of the United Nations related to the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict with a view to implementing them in a manner that guarantees the rights of the Palestinian people to return and build their own independent state with Jerusalem as its capital."

— "The immediate annulment of all agreements, be they secret, public, political, economic or security, that deny the rights of our people to full sovereignty over its land and undermine their right to national independence."

The memorandum praised Jordan, Syria and Lebanon for suspending their peace talks with Israel and called on them "to remain steadfast on their position until Israel adheres to the legitimate resolutions related to the Arab-Israeli conflict."

"We call on our people under occupation to solidify their national unity and escalate their resistance and holy intifada against the occupation forces and settlers," said the one-page memo, accompanied by 16 pages of signatures. "We express our deep condolences to our people in Hebron over the death of the martyrs."

"We call on the Arab states and their political and popular forces to unify their efforts in their fight against the occupation."

"We demand the international community and its human and democratic institutions to work on exposing the fascist practices of the Israeli occupation authorities."

COLUMN

Britain's royal wedding papers stolen

LONDON (R) — Keepers of British official state records admitted Tuesday that papers including the royal warrant that allowed Queen Elizabeth to marry had been stolen last year and they did not even notice. The British Public Record Office only learned of the theft from police who recovered the stolen documents after a tip-off. "We were informed of the incidents by the police last October, and have reviewed the security measures since then," a spokesman for the office said. Among the documents stolen from the archive by casual building workers was the warrant signed by King George VI giving his 21-year-old daughter Princess Elizabeth permission to marry the then Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten in 1947, now Duke of Edinburgh. Under British law the sovereign must approve all marriages by leading members of the royal family. Archivists, keepers at the office were still checking files in case any other papers were stolen while security was relaxed during removal of lethal asbestos from the building. The papers were recovered four months after they were taken when police were tipped off they were being tumbled for sale. Three building workers have been sentenced, to carry out community service after admitting handling stolen goods.

Curie to be 1st woman in French Pantheon

PARIS (R) — Scientist Marie Curie is set to be the first woman to win on her own merit the honour of joining France's great men buried at Paris' Pantheon, President Francois Mitterrand said Tuesday. Mr. Mitterrand, in a move to mark International Women's Day, said he was asking that Curie, who twice won the Nobel Prize, be buried in the domed monument 60 years after she died. "It is not normal that no woman has been admitted in the pantheon on her own merit. I think a woman like Marie Curie must go to the Pantheon if her family accepts it. I am requesting it," he said in a television interview. The Polish-born scientist would join famous French men, such as writers Voltaire and Victor Hugo, and Socialist ideologist Jean Jaures. The only woman lying at the Pantheon is Sophie Berthelot, the wife of 19th-century scientist and Foreign Minister Marcelin Berthelot, buried with her husband because they died together. Curie, born Sklodowska in 1867, was the first woman to teach at Paris' Sorbonne University. She discovered radium and the radioactivity of thorium, sharing the Nobel Physics Prize with her husband Pierre in 1903 and winning the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1911. She died in 1934. Mr. Mitterrand also spared a thought for Edith Cresson, whom he made France's first woman prime minister in 1991. "I am still fully satisfied with appointing a woman prime minister. But she immediately felt the burden... as society is unfortunately not yet ready for such promotion," he said. Mr. Mitterrand sacked Ms. Cresson after less than a year as she plunged to record levels of unpopularity in opinion polls.

Brooke Shields talks about boyfriend Agassi

LONDON (AP) — Last year it was Andre Agassi and Barbara Streisand. Now it's Andre and Brooke Shields. The American actress talked about her romance with the flashy tennis star in the latest issue of the British magazine Hello. "It doesn't matter what we're doing, we're content being with one another," Shields said. "And sometimes we're so in tune, it's surreal." The article is accompanied by pictures of the couple kissing, embracing, cuddling puppies, eating at a fast-food restaurant, and of Agassi giving Shields a tennis lesson. "Andre is extremely sensitive and thoughtful, honest and open, and warm and unaffected... Very down-to-earth," said Shields, who flew to Arizona last month to watch Agassi play in a tournament in Scottsdale. The magazine said the two were first introduced at a tennis match a year ago. They kept in touch by fax.